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### **Pans silenced**

Typically tropical sounds not wanted at the market

See Page 4



# Sunny carnival

Streets of Pelsall packed for annual village fiesta See Page 12



# **Roaring success**

The Lion King arrives for summer stay in the city

See Page 18



# Concern at loss of town **TA base**

WALSALL is to lose its Territorial Army base after Defence Secretary Philip Hammond confirmed it is among 38 military sites across the country to close.

The centre in Sutton Road has been deemed surplus to requirements and will shut before December 2016, when a decision will be made over the site's future.

The site is currently used by 225 field squadron and A Company of the Stafford-shire & West Midlands (North Sector) Army cadets.

The closure comes as part of the Future Forces 2020 reforms, a £1.8 billion overhaul of the TA, to be renamed the Army Reserve. Valerie Vaz, MP for Walsall South, has written to the defence secretary expressing her concerns. She said: "It seems odd that the Government want to expand the TA but then announce this spate of closures. I would like to know the rationale behind the decision to close at Walsall. "There is a relationship between the town and the Army that could be affected if they move somewhere else."

else."
An Army spokesman said:
"We are only talking about a
handful of people being
affected by the Walsall site
being closed."

#### **Attack victim in** critical condition

A MAN remains in a critical

A MAN remains in a critical condition in hospital after a vicious assault outside a pub in Walsall
Police were called to the car park of the Horse & Jockey in Bloxwich Road at around 2.30am on Monday after a violent incident. They taped off the scene.
The victim, helieved to be

The victim, believed to be aged in his late 20s, suffered a serious head injury and detectives are appealing for witnesses.It is believed the attacker, or attackers, ran from the scene.

Police are urgning anyone with information should call 101.

# LY PL TCH KILLERS

#### Report by Lisa O'Brien

A TAKEAWAY driver murdered while making a delivery in Walsall had only taken the job weeks before to save for a Moses basket for the baby his wife was expecting.

A renewed appeal for information is being made three months after father-of-two Yasser Abbas, 28, was set upon by three masked men wielding weapons in Madison Avenue, Alumwell, during the early hours of April 13. He suffered serious head injuries and died in hospital four days later. Detectives are continuing to hunt for his killers and say the murder weapon could have been an axe or a meat cleaver. Police say the victim was 'lured' to the scene, where he was set upon by attackers wearing balaclavas or face coverings. Mr Abbas' family said his death had thrown their lives upside

pas' family said his death had thrown their lives upside down and had shaken a close-knit community. His brother-in-law Aftab Hussain, of Shard End, Birmingham, said Mr Abbas had been excited about becoming a father for the second time. The 37-year-old said: "He had seen the job at the takeaway and wanted to get a bit of extra cash together for the baby. He wanted to buy a Moses basket."

basket."

Mr Abbas, of Raleigh Street, Birchills, had three operations to try to relieve swelling on his brain but died. His funeral on May 2 took place hours after hiswife Shabam gave birth to a boy, Mohammed. His other son, Daniel, is aged four and thinks his father is in Pakistan.

The former Alumwell Comprehensive School student, had worked for Moon Palace, a Chinese takeaway in Old Birchills. He had previously worked for Harvestime bakery in Walsall.

#### Crying

His uncle Tariq Hussain, 45, of Gladstone Street, Walsall, said: "Since this happened the health of his father, Firat, has got worse. His wife is caring for the baby but she is crying almost day and night. "Thousands of people came to his funeral. We have had a lot if support from the community and the police."

police."

Another uncle, Shazad Hussain, said the family were desperate to bring his killers to justice and urged anyone with information to come forward. The 35-year-old, of Gladstone Street, Walsall, said: "Our lives have come to a standstill. We need some sort of closure. A father has lost a son. A son has lost a father. A wife has lost her husband. We need justice."

A wife has lost her husband. We need justice."
Detective Inspector Gary Plant, who is leading the inquiry, said police were keen to speak to anyone who saw a dark coloured vehicle leave the Ripon Road area shortly after the attack.

He said: "I'm also interested in a blue BMW 5 series seen in the area about an hour before the attack. It has been a targeted attack with Yasser as the intended victim. We do not know the motive. We are appealing for help from the community because I believe the answer to this is in the local community." Anyone with information is urged to call police on Anyone with information is urged to call police on 101.

# Waiting for life to begin again



Waiting for a call that will change her life — Lisa Naylor, from Darlaston, who needs a kidney transplant, with the dialysis machine that keeps her alive but restricts her life FOR nearly ten years Lisa Naylor, of Darlason, has been waiting for the call that tells aved by a transplant in this region. The her she has a donor match and can have a kidney transplant.

Nine years ago she was given a 50:50 On stresses the importance of joining the change of survival when her kidneys failed and below me unconsciping for two weeks as

her she has a donor match and can have a kidney transplant.

Nine years ago she was given a 50:50 chance of survival when her kidneys failed and she was unconscious for two weeks as her parents were told to expect the worst. She had a transplant from her mother Sharon in 2006 but it failed.

Mrs Naylor is in need of regular dialysis. The former Walsall College student was working as a care assistant when her life changed forever. She can no longer work.

"I try to lead a normal life," said the 30-year-old from Parklands Road. "Rather than sit and mope I do what I can. My back hurts a lot but it's more using the needles as part of my dialysis. It's keeping me alive, so I can't complain."

I can't complain."
In the West Midlands 654 people are waiting for a transplant and 152 have died in the past four years due to a shortage of

#### **Frustrating**

"You can donate many parts of yourself to save others," said Mrs Naylor, who married husband Mark last year.

The failed transplant left her mother with one kidney but, undeterred, her father Mark tried to donate too, before a heart condition prevented him. Now her sister Tammy is hoping she can donate with tests ongoing For Mrs Naylor her frustrating wait continues. "It wasn't my fault that I got this," she said. "As soon as I've had my transplant I'll be out working and I'll be able to have children too." To sign up to the Organ Donor Register call 0300 123 2323 or visit www.transplantweek.co.uk

# Team in second Channel

A TEAM of six swimmers from Walsall will attempt to swim to France and back this weekend to raise money

this weekend to raise money for a breast cancer charity. Big Rick's Swim Team will battle cold water, waves, darkness, fatigue and even jelly fish during their return swim of the English Channel. It will be their second attempt after last year's effort was halted just 300 metres short of Dover due to thick fog.

The gruelling 60-mile swim has been achieved only 55 times since 1950. Team leader Paul Bates, 44, said: "After getting so close last year we are determined to finish the swim this time around we are better prepared physically.

This time around we are better prepared physically. But so much will depend on the conditions."

The group was founded in memory of Walsall swimmer Mark Rickhuss, who died in 2005 while assisting a friend on a Channel swim.

Mr Bates added: "Whatever happens, this will probably be our final attempt."

The team will be raising

The team will be raising money for the Breakthrough money for the Breakthrough Breast Cancer, in memory of Philippa Thomas, partner of team member Richard Brownjohn. The swim is due to start in Dover at midnight on Sunday. To donate see www.justgiving.com/pip schannelswimteam

#### Duke is excited over royal baby

THE Duke of York has told THE JUKE OF YORK has told of his excitement at becoming great uncle to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's baby, as he visited Walsall.

Kate Middleton is due to give birth to the couple's first child on Saturday.

first child on Saturday.
Prince Andrew was in
Walsall to open the Black
Country's first Studio school
on Monday. The Duke is
patron of the Studio Schools
Trust. It will take up to 300
pupils from September at
the £3 million Goldmine
building in Lower Hall Lane.
The prince also visited the
Black Country University
Technical College in
Bloxwich.

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**Pedal-power** 

helps charity

STAFF at Hartshorne Group's depot in Walsall braved sweltering

depot in Walsall braved sweltering temperatures on Saturday to take part in an 25-mile sponsored bike ride in aid of cancer research. More than 30 employees used pedal power in the blazing sun-shine to raise cash for The Cullen's Cancer Research Fund at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. The company has yowed to

The company has vowed to match pound for pound the sum raised by the ride along Walsall's towpaths, making a grand total of around £6,000.

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# Nightclub thug, 20, put behind bars for attacks A THUG has been put behind bars after smashing a reveller's head through a glass window at a Walsall nightclub. Nightclub thug, 20, put behind bars after smashing a reveller's head through a plass window at a Walsall nightclub. Nightclub thug, 20, put behind bars for attacks the town centre. He squared up to one of his victims, claiming he had been bumped into on the dancellor. A friend been control to the dancellor. A friend acceptable that Gee had been control to call the situ. It emerged that Gee had been control to call the situ. It emerged that Gee had been control to call the situ. The police were called." It emerged that Gee had been control to call the situ. The police were called. The police were ca



Nicholas Gee was locked up for 14 months after he was involved in a fight with two men in Walsall's WS1 One club on Bridge Street.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that Gee, aged 20, of Neath Road, Bloxwich, later sought out the victims as they waited for a cab in Ablewell Street.

The court heard how on the night of December 8 Gee had been in the club in

Rent continued to be paid

for the property and officers executed a search warrant at

admitted managing a brothel and was last week sentenced to four months in

prison, of which she will serve half. Mr Patrick Currie, defending, said Griffiths worked as an escort follow-

worked as an escort following the breakdown of her marriage.

He said: "She knows women who work the street and she tells me she was approached by a number of women who asked if they could use the address. The girls who came to provide services there were all existing prostitutes."

Griffiths asked for rent contributions between £5

contributions between £5

Sentencing her Judge Amjad Nawaz said: "People do not want that type of industry on their doorstep."

and £20.

of the victim stepped in to calm the situation but Gee punched the peacemaker twice to the side of his head.

Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, said:
"Afterwards they (the victims) left with
friends and went to Zaf's Taxis to go
home. The defendant and his friends all
went to the taxi rank. Two of the defendant's friends blocked the door as Gee
grabbed the victim by the neck and put it

It emerged that Gee had been convicted as youth in 2009 for battery after he kicked a person in the head. He was sent to a young offender's institute after a fight at Essington Working Men's club. Gee pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm, two charges of

common assault and criminal damage

Record Nicholas Cartwright said it was a miracle that the victim wasn't

# Brothel 'manager' is iailed after police raid

from a rented house in Walsall has been jailed for four months.

Tanya Griffiths used to text prostitutes with details of shifts and clientsat the property, in Midland Road. Provocative clothes and items linked to the sex trade were discovered at the address during a police swoop.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard the house was rented by the daughter of Griffiths in 2010. But she returned home to live with her mother in 2011.

# **Poundland** stops sale of Chinese sky lanterns

POUNDLAND has pulled Chinese lanterns from sale

for the property and officers executed a search warrant at around 1pm on November 8 last year. They found 49-year-old Griffiths and two women in their early 20s sitting in a conservatory.

When interviewed by police one of the women admitted working there since 2012 as a prostitute.

Miss Amy Jacobs, prosecuting, said although there were no substantial profits being made, Griffiths was clearly 'managing the prostitutes' and was 'effectively organising the rota'.

Griffiths, of Viscount Drive, Castle Vale, Birmingham, said adult films had been made there but it was not being used as a brothel. But at crown court she admitted managing a brothel and was last week sentenced to four months in Chinese lanterns from sale in the wake of a £6 million blaze in Smethwick.

The inferno at the Jayplas recycling plant was one of the biggest in the West Midlands and was tackled by more than 200 firefighters citize rock.

more than 200 fretighters at its peak.

CCTV footage showed a Chinese lantern landing on the site, containing up to 100,000 bales of plastic, before it burst into flames.

Willenhall-based chain Poundland, which has more than 300 branches nationwide, has removed the

wide, has removed the lanterns from their shelves.

lanterns from their shelves.
Richard Lancaster,
trading director at Poundland, said: "We constantly
review our buying decisions
in accordance to what's happening around us.

"After hearing the news
about the fire in Smethwick
we have made a decision to
stop selling lanterns to our
customers and recalled all

customers and recalled all remaining stock from

There are growing calls for a ban on the novelty floating lights, also known as sky lanterns.

23 years experience

and insurance backed

# Wizzard saxman ties the knot at 74



Wedding day joy for Mike Burnley and his bride Sue Jeffs despite the musician's cancer battle

WHEN musician Mike Burney looked into the eyes of his bride as they promised to love each other forever – in both sickness and in health - the words could not have been more poignant.

The saxophonist, who has performed with some of the music industry's greats, is battling cancer and faces a gruelling course of radiotherapy.

The illness has stopped him indulging in one of his life's loves – playing the sax-

has met and performed with a range of music legends – ranging from Rat Pack star Sammy Davies Jr, jazz

#### Legends

But he was determined it would not stop him walking his first love down the aisle, and now the 74-year-old from Walsall has sweetheart Sue Jeffs at his side as his wife.

Mr Burney, of The Butts.

singers Sarah Vaughan and Mel Torme, band leader Billy Eckstine, through to pop star Cliff Richard and crooner Engelbert crooner Humperdinck.

Humperdinck.

But Mike is best known
for his membership of 70s
glam pop group Wizzard, led
by Brum rock star Roy
Wood. He can be heard
playing on hits See My Baby
Jive and I Wish It Could Be
Christmas Everday.
Sadley he is currently.

Christmas Everday.

Sadley he is currently unable to play the saxophone due to his battle with cancer. He has a tumour on his pelvis, for which he has undergone surgery it could not be removed. He begins radiotherapy treatment in August in the hope it will shrink the tumour.

Mr Burney was desperate to make the first love of his life, Sue, his wife and the pair married at Walsall Registry Office in Hatherton Road. He described the day as 'wonderful'.



Mike, right, with Wizzard frontman Roy Wood pictured during their 1970s heyday

He said: "I've had a few problems and she's looked after me. Sue's got Parkin-son's too, so I also look after her. I love her and she loves

me.
Sue, 56, said she first met
Mike at the age of 12 when
he taught her to play the saxophone at school. They have
been a couple for 10 years.
"At the wedding we had
Brazilian Wedding Song,
which was really romantic.
We also had Slow by Rumer,
which was my song to him."

which was my song to him," said the new Mrs Burney. "If you listen to the lyrics, you will be able to understand

will be able to understand how I feel about him.

"Over the years we've drifted apart but love has always brought us back together.

"I ask with I asald have

together.
"I only wish I could have
married him sooner. I know
he gets worried about the
cancer, but I just keep trying
to reassure him. I make him say something positive every day."

# **Fred** dies



CELEBRATED artist Fred CELEBRATED artist Fred barnfield, who campaigned to have the names of 1,000 fallen soldiers added to Wednesbury war memorial, has died aged 77.

The father of two died on Friday at Walsall Manor Hospital following a battle with throat cancer.

Mr Barnfield grew up in Tipton but spent much of his life in Wednesbury working

life in Wednesbury working as an iron moulder in a foundry.

#### Inspiring

He gained great renown in 1984 as The Wednesbury Blobber for his 'blob' por-traits, using a brush and a squeezy bottle. Vice Chairman of Tipton Civic Society Keith

Civic Civic Society, Keith Hodgkins said: "He was one of those amazing people who had very little formal educa-tion, but had educated himself, and was knowledge able. He was inspiring."

# Third bus

A THIRD sexual assault has taken place on a bus in Walsall, police have revealed.

Detectives are linking the attacks on women which have taken place over the last two months.

The latest incident hap-pened on the number 51 bus which runs between Birm-ingham and Walsall.

ingham and Walsall.

An Asian man wearing an olive coloured baseball cap and dark tracksuit bottoms assaulted a 55-year-old woman after sitting next to her. The man, believed to be between 25 and 30, placed a coat over the woman's legs and inappropriately touched her.

He left the bus as it stopped at St Paul's bus station in Walsall. The incident happened on June 26 at 5.45pm. Others were on the 529 and 997.

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part is all that is is needed.

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# injuries

A MAN who was seriously hurt in an attack in Walsall town centre has suffered a potentially 'life changing' injury, detectives revealed.

Police are now trawling through CCTV to search for clues to the assault which left the may in his '20 with

clues to the assault which left the man in his 20s with a serious head injury.

A friend of the man received minor injuries as he tried to escape the attack which happened in Bradford Street at around 3.30am on Friday. Some shops and market stalls, remained sealed off for more than 12 hours.

Detective Inspector Harry Harrison said: "A young man is in hospital with a potentially life changing injury and we need to piece together what happened.
"We are confident that

need to piece together what happened.
"We are confident that local CCTV will help with our inquiries but in the meantime we are asking for anyone who has not yet spoken to police to come forward if they witnessed the attack, or have any information about those who are responsible."

Officers can be contacted on 101 or to anonymously at

on 101 or to anonymously at Crimestoppers on 0800 555

# Warning on tunnel closures

COMMUTERS who drive into Birmingham are being urged to take advantage of out-of-town car parks and use public transport while Birmingham's A38 tunnels are closed.

Special parking arrangements are in place during the closures which include additional free parking facilities in Perry Barr.

Alternative

#### **Alternative**

The St Chad's and Queensway Tunnels will be shut for essential refurbishment work from July 19 until September 2 and drivers are being asked to use alternative transport into the city.

use alternative transport into the city.
Centro wants motorists to make use of the bus, rail and Midland Metro network.
For travellers approaching the city along the A34/Walsall corridor, additional nating spaces are tional parking spaces are available throughout the closures at Birmingham City University's City North campus at Perry Barr.

# Victim's Lighter fuel sniffer showed signs of illness

THE signs of Ian Woolley's mental illness had been obvious for years.

And yet no one could have guessed the lumbering six-footer was capable of the 'dreadful brutality' that led him to kill both his mother Pauline Gillen and concerned neighbour Jason Duffield. Woolley, a father of three, was addicted to

smoked cannabis.

His sister said he had talked about seeing space ships and killing the Prime Minister. Psychiatrist Kenny Herbert, on whose report the judge based his sentence sending Woolley to a secure hospital, described the

Killer as a paranoid schizophrenic who had been ill for at least 10 years. He said many people might have thought Woolley's substance taking led him to kill but it was more likely that Woolley used lighter fuel and alcohol to block out the hal-lucinations that tortured him. Woolley was initially deemed unfit to

plead but, with treatment, his condition improved to the point where he recognised what he had done, and had reacted with 'shock and remorse.'

Although declared well enough to enter a plea, Mr Herbert said Woolley has continued to lapse into psychotic thinking and would require long-term treatment.

# Psychotic killer stabbed mother and neighbour

A SON stabbed his mother to death with a screwdriver as she lav in bed before killing her next door neighbour and throwing him over a fifth-floor balcony.

Ian Woolley then sat and smoked a cigarette before dialling 999 and telling the oper-

rette before dialling 999 and telling the oper-ator: "Tve just committed murder."
The father-of-three admitted manslaugh-ter on the grounds of diminished responsibil-ity at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.
He was sentenced to be detained in a secure hospital indefinitely and cannot be released without the authority of the secre-tary of state.

released without the authority of the secretary of state.

The 44-year-old attacked Pauline Gillen, aged 69, and Jason Duffield, aged 41, at Holly Court, in Acacia Avenue, Yew Tree, on the Walsall-Sandwell border where both victims and Woolley lived, in the early hours of October 6 last year.

On the day before the the killings Woolley had met his mother and brother in Walsall.

#### Shouting

Malcolm Woolley said his brother had been in a 'funny mood' and struck him in the face, said Mr Peter Grieve-Smith, prosecuting.

said Mr Peter Grieve-Smith, prosecuting.

Mrs Gillen, a 69-year-old mother of three, lived on the same floor in Holly Court, Acacia Avenue, Walsall, as her son, but in a separate flat. Jason Duffield, described as 'quiet and shy' also lived on the fifth floor.

That night on October 6, Mr Duffield, 41, who would normally not have had the confidence to leave his flat, had responded to the sound of a woman shouting, the court heard.

Woolley, who had a key to his mother's flat, had let himself in and gone to her bedroom, where he stabbed here.

Mr Duffield was the second to be attacked. He was stabbed through the skull and chest

Mr Duffield was the second to be attacked. He was stabbed through the skull and chest before being dragged through the apartment and tipped over the balcony.

A neighbour looked through his spyhole when he heard the disturbance and saw Woolley walk calmly back to his flat.
When arrested, Woolley asked police: "Is she dead? Is he dead? Good." He said he used his 'dad's old screwdriver! to kill them

his 'dad's old screwdriver' to kill them.

He added: "Things came to a head. The other man came to the wrong place at the

other man came to the wrong place at the wrong time."
Chris Millington, defending, said Woolley suffered from 'psychotic ideas which had no basis in reality.

Judge William Davis, QC, the Birmingham Recorder, told Woolley: "With dreadful brutality you killed your mother and, having killed her, a neighbour who had done nothing



Victim - mother Pauline Gillen, aged 69



Victim - neighbour Jason Duffield



Killer - mentally ill Ian Woolley



A police forensic tent covers the spot where Jason Duffield's body was found

more but come to assist was killed with equal brutality. These were dreadful and tracic events."

tragic events."

Mr Duffield leaves a son and daughter,

and a stepson, with whom he lived.

Although separated from his wife Sarah, she spoke of the family's grief at their loss: "As a family we want to remember Jason for

who he was, a caring and wonderful person who would help anyone in need. Because of this he died so tragically and in such a

"We wish to remember him as we knew him and be left in private to our memories." Pauline Gillen's family said in a statement after Friday's hearing: "At this time



we as a family would like to remember our mother as the caring and loving person that we all loved dearly.

"She was taken from us prematurely in the most unimaginable way possibly. "Our thoughts at this time are also with the Duffield family and we offer our condo-

#### Ellie in a move to new swim coach

PARALYMPIC swimming star Ellie Simmonds is switching her training base from Swansea to Loughborough University, in Leicestershire, after competing in the IPC World Championships in Montreal next month.

The new coach for the

World Championships in Montreal next month.

The new coach for the 18-year-old from Aldridge will be Steve Bayley. Her long-standing coach Billy Pye, who guided the swimmer to double gold at London 2012, will continue to work with her during competitions and at training camps.

Ellie, said: "The last six years with Billy have been absolutely incredible and I can't thank him enough." Mr Pye added: "It's been wonderful to see her grow from a hugely talented youngster to an inspirational young lady."

Petition against

#### **Petition against** shop plan at pub

Snop plan at pulb
A PETITION with more
than 100 signatures
against the development
of a derelict pub in Willenhall has been presented to
councillors.
Plans for a new shop
front at the Brown Jug,
Sandbeds Road, will help
attract a new tenant and
deter anti-social behaviour, Dudley-based applicant SEP Properties Lut
told Walsall Council.
But a petition against

told Walsall Council.
But a petition against the proposals was launched by residents and shopkeepers.
The 127-signature petition was passed to councillors at Walsall Council's planning committee meeting. The committee deferred its consideration of the application.

#### By-election to be held next month

A BY-ELECTION follow-A BY-ELECTION following the death of former Walsall transport and environment chief Tom Ansell will be held on August 15.

Nominations for the Aldridge Central and South seat must be made by July 19.

The former Mayor and council leader died last month at the age of 70.

Mr Ansell had served as a Conservative councillor

a Conservative councillor in Aldridge for more than 25 years.

#### Ramblers going on farmland walk

WALSALL Ramblers will be heading to Kyre Wyard near Tenbury Wells for a 7.5 mile farmland walk on Sunday. Contact walk leaders for on 01922 692929 or 01543 371033.



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# **OF PETER**

A RECYCLING centre in Smethwick is set ablaze by a Chinese lantern and our immediate response is to run around like headless chickens calling for a new law to ban such devices. For heaven's sake, we do not need any new laws. England has been passing laws for 1,000 years and the law against deliberately or recklessly starting fires is fully covered by the Criminal Damage Act. All we need is a prosecution or two to make the

Act. All we need is a prosecution or two to make the point that sending a naked flame aloft in a Chinese lantern is as reckless as lobbing a petrol bomb over your neighbour's fence.

"IT WOULD be too much to say that death does not frighten me, but I have no fear of the hereafter because I do not believe in it." From the last interview by the Nobel-winning scientist Christian de Duve, 95, whose death by legally-assisted suicide in Belgium was reported this week. He went out, according to his family, with "a smile and a

#### 00000000

AN INTERNET poll shows a big resurgence of "extreme retro" names from Victorian times. But we all grow old and one day today's young people, with names like Chardonnay, Sting, River and Waynetta, will become old people, living in homes where they will be cared for by young people called Mabel, Florence, Winifred and Stanley.

"THE Conservatives' high priest of enthusiasm."
Boris Johnson, as described this week by political

Boris Johnson, as described this week by political pundit Benedict Brogan.

AS anyone in academia will tell you, there are two great reasons to become a teacher, namely July and August. The long, sunny, six-week holidays are a relic from the time when kids were needed to bring in the harvest and are a huge attraction for would-be teachers. No wonder that union leaders are enraged by the Government's Deregulation Bill which will allow head teachers, not local authorities, to set term times and holidays. But I doubt if they have much to worry about. Not heads, like most teachers, want long holidays and a quiet life. The last thing they desire is to be pinned up against the wall by angry parents complaining that they can't juggle family holidays to suit a changed term. The most likely outcome is that schools in the same area will quietly agree on the same holidays and that any head who tries to introduce radical new short terms will get a flurry of resignation notes from the staffroom.

WHAT rocked me slightly on my heels in the school-term reports was the passing reference to how many state schools there are in the UK. Go on, have a guess. The answer is about 25,000. In the internet age when all the world's knowledge, lan-guages and culture are a mouse-click away, isn't it extraordinary that we have no better means of edu-cating children than dragooning them in batches of 30 through 14 years of lessons, at the end of which some can't even string a sentence together? There

must be a better way.

□□□□□□□□

MEMORANDUM. From the White House, Washington, to EU Headquarters, Brussels: As a mark of good-will, the United States Government hereby solemnly pledges that all electronic eavesdropping on the emails, offices, phone conversations and personal diaries of EU officials and politicians will cease as of 2000 hrs on Monday, July 15 (immediately after Angela Merkel's pedicure appointment).

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes** every Monday to Friday in **your Express & Star** 

# **Builder chosen for leisure centre revamp**

Ambulance depot is

A BUILDER based in Walsall Wood has been appointed to carry out the £500,000 revamp of a leisure centre which will get under way this week.

Niken Construction, in Hall Lane, has been chosen to carry out the redevelopment work at Friary Grange Leisure Centre, in Lichfield, which will be out of action to swimmers until the autumn. Apart from the

recommending members of the council's planning com-mittee do not initiate formal

enforcement action at this stage, until the inquiry into the Ashmore Lake Way site is completed.

Report

In a report to councillors, head of planning David Elsworthy wrote: "The alleged breach is that without the required planning permission the West Midlands Ambulance Service are dispatching ambulances on emergency responses from the ambulance maintenance hub. "Whilst residents have

lance maintenance hub.
"Whilst residents have
provided evidence of ambulances potentially being dispatched for emergency
responses using their sirens
from the maintenance hub
on Ashmore Lake Way, and
whilst officers have carried
out some monitoring and
served a Planning Contra-

astern Avenue, will stay open.

Councillor Val Richards, leisure boss at Lichfield District Council, said: "We're all excited that work is about to get started. It will make a huge difference to leisure centre

users.
"We know everyone will miss the

and autumn but we hope swimmers will take advantage of Burntwood Leisure Centre's two pools while it is out of extion." out of action

The work will include easier access into the leisure centre and pool and the creation of a viewing platform to the pool from an extended refreshment area.

Leisure bosses say anyone who

has a membership to Friary Grange that includes the use of the pool can use Burntwood's facilities for the duration of the works.

The transformation is being paid for through a £200,000 grant from Sport England and funding from Staffordshire County Council, Lich-field District Council and section 106 contributions

road plans

**Views are** sought on

borough

RESIDENTS in Walsall can give their views on roads in the borough as part of a national survey.

Around 4,500 borough residents will be given the chance to respond in the National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey.

tion Survey. Walsall is one of 70 local

Walsall is one of 70 local authorities across the country taking part.

The survey asks questions on road and transport services, use of transport, cycling, road safety, traffic management and congestion. The surveys will be sent out during this month and the results will be published later this year.

Regeneration and transport chief Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "A consultation exercise on this scale demonstrates Walsall Council's commitment to

Council's commitment to both listening and respond-

ing to local residents. "I would urge residents as "I would urge residents as soon as they receive their questionnaire to fill it in without delay and return it. By taking on board the views and opinions of local people we are more able to improve the delivery of services so that they better meet the needs and expectations."

# under investigation Jamani's tropical tunes silenced



Busker Jamani Stewart has been told he can't play his steel pan in Bloxwich Market. which has led to an outcry from those who enjoy his typically tropical sounds

HE has had shoppers dancing in the street but not everyone was in tune with talented young Caribbean musician Jamani Stewart.

young Caribbean musician Jamani Stewart. The teenage busker was asked to move from his spot in Bloxwich market by police despite becoming the talk of the town for tropical sounds that brought a ray of sunshine to the town centre. The 18-year-old, who has performed across the UK and Trinidad, had been playing his steel pan just off the main High Street, near to the market, when he was approached by police officers. He has now decided to stop playing in Bloxwich but is aiming to return sometime in the future.

in the future

Jamani, from Great Barr, has performed in front of the Jamaican athletics team and at Birmingham Symphony Hall and ICC. He

has released his own album Next Chapter and busking is a sidelline.

The musician said: "It is mainly just to brighten up people's town centres. I just want to go out and show everybody the music I do." Magical

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Joanne Hunt confirmed neighbourhood officers spoke to the busker following com-plaints about noise levels. She said: "The officers did ask him if he would consider other level to the complaints." other locations given the complaints

has released his own album Next Chapter

But Jamani has received support for his busking from scores of passers-by and Bloxwich councillor Kath Phillips hailed his impact on the town centre, saying: "It was

Weddings and Special Occasions

Gents and Children Welcome 01922 620086 16 The Victorian Arcade, Walsall, WS1 1RE

### **Makeover at** evesore site

DERELICT land in Darlas

DERELICT land in Darlaston that has been regularly targeted by fly-tippers is receiving a makeover
Residents are helping to transform the former allotment site in Herberts Park
Road to become the George
Rose Community Garden.
The land was declared surplus to requirements in the early 1970s and became an eyesore. Residents backed by Walsall Council are now working to transform the site with help from Kier Construction, cur-Kier Construction, cur-rently working on the nearby Grace Academy, pro-viding two weeks' worth of free work.

#### Club president

A NEW president has been selected for Darlaston Rotary Club.
David Read will take up the role of president of the club and has already set out his stall to attract new members and take on bigger projects. The grandfather-of-10 has been a long-serving member of the club.

### Bravery inspired by nurse

claims an ambulance hub in Willenhall is

breaching planning permission with residents complaining about noise from the site. The depot was opened at Electrium Point as a mainte-nance and preparation base but residents say they are suf-fering sleepless nights from wiling sirens as vehicles leave

by Craig Hughes

vention Notice already, the results have so far proved

results have so far proved inconclusive.

"Asking for WMAS records will assist in bringing the enforcement case to a conclusion."

The hub, which launched last November, is home to a team of ambulance fleet assistants who stock, clean and prepare the vehicles for paramedics.

Planning permission was

parametics.
Planning permission was granted for a two-storey building and office space.
The intention is for vehicles to be collected and then move off site to stand-by scients to respond to cells

points to respond to calls.

Residents have voiced concerns over ambulances responding straight from the hub, rather than only in the cases of nearby emergencies.

cies.
WMAS spokesman Chris
Kowalik said: "There has
been work going on with our

control room to use the hub

in the way it is supposed to

be.
"We have been working on reducing 999 responses from the hub and they have been coing down."

SUPPORTERS of Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Charity braved wind and rain for an abseil down a

tals Charity braved wind and rain for an abseil down a Birmingham department store in memory of a colleague. City Hospital staff nurse Ramandeep Kaur, from Willenhall, died following an asthma attack, aged 22. NHS staff, including chief nurse Rachel Overfield, were joined by others to raise money for asthma services at the abseil at House of Fraser in Corporation Street.

To sponsor the staff from Ward D17, where Ramandeep worked, visit www.just giving.com/teams/d17abseilers

(NEWTREND BATHROOMS) 10% off with this advert massive savings on fitting Free survey and quotation service Bathrooms supplied and installed from £2599 inc tiles Visit our showroom at: Unit 5 Day Street, Walsall (near Leather Museum) Tel: 01922 630400
.newtrendbathrooms.co.uk E: info@newtrendbathrooms.co.uk



# on post office's future

A PUBLIC meeting will be held by campaigners fight-ing plans to close down Wil-lenhall post office and move

lenhall post office and move it into a shop.
Workers at the John Street office held a strike over the proposals, amid fears jobs could be at risk.
Campaigners in Willenhall are inviting post office bosses to the meeting on Friday, July 19, to hear people's views.
Willenhall is one of 70 Crown Post Office branches earmarked to be franchised.
Post office bosses want to help claw back annual losses of around £40 million.

of around £40 million. Diane Coughlan, councillor for Willenhall South, claimed that the Willenhall

claimed that the Willenhall branch was one of the busiest in the area, with up to 2,000 people passing through its doors each week.

"There is no way people will be able to get the same level of service if the post office moved into a shop," she said.

"There are no shops in the town centre that are big enough to accommodate that level of people on a weekly basis, apart from the that level of people on a weekly basis, apart from the supermarkets. We are adamant the post office must stay in the town centre as it is also bringing people in to other shops there."

Representatives from the Communication Workers' Union have been invited to the meeting at Willenhall Chart Centre in Gomer Street at 3 pm.

Bosses have said where a suitable retail partner cannot be found, branches will remain open and have stressed there will be no compulsory redundancies.

#### **Vodka-fuelled** knife threat

A DRUNK Polish man armed with a 20cm-long kitchen knife threatened people in Walsall town centre during the early hours, the town's magistrates court heard.

Gregorz Mikitczuk, of Westbourne Road, Walsall, had been drinking vodka when police were called to reports he was brandishing a knife. The 22-year-old admitted possession of a bladed article in a public place. He was remanded in place. He was remanded in place. He was remanded in custody to appear at Wolver-hampton Crown Court for sentence on July 30. Mr. Chris Loach, defending, said Mikitczuk had no recollec-tion of making threats to anyone.

# Meeting Thief's pockets were bulging with stolen stamps

A THIEF tried to steal hundreds of booklets of stamps worth more than £1,000 which were scattered on the ground in Walsall town centre, a court

heard.

John Steatham had his 'pockets bulging' with postage stamps which belonged to WH Smith in Park Street where there had been a break-in.

The 34-year-old said he stumbled across the stamps during the early hours of Sunday morning but said he did not enter or burgle the premises.

He admitted theft by finding and was sentenced to a four month prison term, suspended for a year, at Walsall Magistrates Court last week

When Steatham was searched by police they found 143 books of six first class stamps, 76 books of 12 first class stamps and 29 books of four first class stamps. There was also one book of 12 second class stamps

In all, the haul of stamps were valued at £1,172.40, the

#### Searched

Miss Rachel Smith, prosecuting, said police received a call that WH Smith had been raided t just after 4.10am. Three tills had been stripped of stamps.

Steatham was seen near the doorway and when he was

searched by officers he was discovered with the postage

the store or on the pavement outside the shop.

Miss Smith added: "During the course of his police inter-

Miss Smith added: "During the course of his police interview he said he had been visiting friends, taking drugs.
"As he passed WH Smith he noticed the front door entrance of the premises were forced open and there was paper scattered everywhere.
"He decided to take these items, pick them all up to keep for himself or sell them on."
Steatham, of Wednesbury Road, Pleck, had traces of heroin and cocaine in his system when he was arrested.
As well as the .suspended jail term, Steatham must pay £85 costs and an £80 victim surcharge.

# Ban for drink-driver seen swerving on M6

'swerving from side to side' on the M6 has been given a two-year driving ban.

Amritpal Singh's car was spotted as it travelled towards junction seven for Great Barr, a court heard.
Shortly after 24-year-old Singh came off the motorway he

was stopped by police, in Lake Avenue, Walsall, and a by Kirsten Rawlins

was stopped by police, in Lake Avenue, Walsall, and a roadside breath test was carried out.

He was then taken to a police station where tests showed he had 107 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millitres of breath. The legal limit is 35 microgrammes. Singh, of Gillity Avenue, Walsall, appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court and admitted drink-driving.

Birthday

He told the court he had been at a party for his uncle's 50th birthday celebrations on the Saturday night and was drinking until around 8am the following morning.

"I then went to sleep around 9am, got up around 3pm and went out again," said Singh. "I didn't realise it was still in me so much."

Singh went out at 4pm on the Sunday, June 10, and went to a pub where he told the Probation Service had around six doubles of vodka before getting behind the was the subject of a l2-month supersion or drivers' course' and told to complete 80 hours of unpaid work.

Singh was also ordered to pay £85 prosecution costs and a £60 surcharge.

Sentencing him District Judge Michael Morris told him: "You were more than three times over the legal drivers' course' in the drivers' course' and a £60 surcharge.

Singh was also ordered to pay £85 prosecution costs and a £60 surcharge.

Sentencing him District Judge Michael Morris told him: "You were more than three times over the legal drivers' course' and agent to redement the subject of a 12-month supersion or drivent support of the probation service had a factor of the support of the probation Service had around six doubles of vodka before getting behind the was ento be swrving from side to side.

"He came off the motor-gradient of the motor way and was stopped a short distance away where he was the stopped a pizza company, was banned from driving for two sperses. He was made the subject of a 12-month supersion or drivers' course' and told to complete 80 hours of unpaid work.

Singh was also ordered to pay £85 prosecution costs and a £60 surcharge.

Singh was also ordered to pay £85 prosecution costs and a £60 surcharge. before getting behind the

Prosecutor Val Hart said: "He was seen driving his

# More than 40 metal covers stolen from roads



Hole lot of trouble – Council leader Councillor Mike Bird with the temporary drain shields being installed after scores of manhole and drain covers were stolen from streets in Walsall, particularly Park Hall and Delves

over the limit really is quite incomprehensible." MORE than 40 metal covers worth  $\pounds 20,000$  have been stolen from streets in Walsall within a week. First aid training at stadium

in Walsall within a week.

The gully and manhole covers have been swiped predominantly around the Park Hall and Delves areas Temporary measures to cover the holes have now been taken.

It comes amid fears someone could fall down a hole and be seriously injured if metal thieves continue to strike steal covers from across the become?

A total of 14 gully and 28 manhole covers have been taken from streets

were stolen from streets in Walsall, par including Park Hall Road, Woodside Road, Charlemont Road, Skip Lane, Newquay Road, Canberra Road, Bell Lane and Poplar Avenue.

Council leader Mike Bird, who lives in Park Hall, called on scrap dealers to be responsible and not accept drain covers if they belong to a council.

He added that someone could be seriously hurt if they fall down a gaping hole and condemned those who are responsible for the thefts.

"This is a fatality waiting to happen.

"This is a fatality waiting to happen. They only get pennies for them, these are people that don't give a damn

about life or limb," he said. "The thieves need to be apprehended but so do the scrap dealers."

The missing covers were reported to the council and holes have been made safe. Bosses are organising replacement gully covers which are lockable and establishing who is responsible for replacing manhole covers, as these can belong to different organisations.

The use of plastic drain covers has

The use of plastic drain covers has been trialled by the council and was considered a success. Subject to funding they could be used throughout the borough.

#### Hoard treasure on show in cathedral

ITEMS from the Stafford-ITEMS from the Staffordshire Hoard, found near
Brownhills, are on display
at Lichfield Cathedral following a £50,000 grant
from Arts Council
England.

The Chapter House is
home to a selection of
artefacts, some not seen
before, as well as replicas,
information panels and a
craft table.

Chancellor at Lichfield
Cathedral, Canon
Anthony Moore, said: "As
well as the stunning new
hoard items, the Chapter

hoard items, the Chapter House now houses an iPad

House now houses an iPad interactive, crafting table, handling replicas and more," he said.
"As well as being able to virtually clean a piece of the Staffordshire Hoard, you can also take a closer look at star items.
The display is open daily and is free, although donations are welcome.

#### Libraries hosting events for families

events for families

A SERIES of events for families are being held at libraries across the Walsall borough on Saturday as part of "Take Your Child to the Library Day". Picnics will be held at the events and snacks provided. Any child joining the library can sign up to this year's summer reading challenge to get youngsters to read six books during the school holidays.

Leisure chief Councillor Anthony Harris said: "It will be a fun day for all the family and a chance to take a look at what your library has on offer."

Second hotel plan

#### Second hotel plan for Drayton Manor

A SECOND hotel is planned at a Staffordshire theme park. Proposals for a 85-bedroom hotel have been drawn up after the success of the £19 million hotel that opened at Drayton Manor Park two Drayton Manor Park two years ago. Demand has con-tinued since the opening of 150-bedroom Drayton Manor Hotel where some rooms have a Thomas & Friends theme.

#### Stuck for a guid at the fire station

At the life station
A CAR passenger got her
hand stuck trying to retrieve a £1 coin and had to
be rescued by firefighters.
The woman, trapped
between the seat and the
console, was driven to
Walsall fire station by a
family member, where a
metal har was used to free metal bar was used to free her last Wednesday.

ST JOHN Ambulance is offering training at the Banks' Stadium, home of Walsall FC, later this month so it can help more people learn first aid for the workplace. The training division of the charity will host courses including first aid at work and fire marshal qualifications with the first course on July 22. Last year St John Ambulance trained 5,557 people at its West Midlands venues, mainly in three-day first aid courses. To find out more about St John Ambulance training for businesses, call 0844 770 4800 or book online at www.sja.org.uk/training

# **GERMANY HAS THE ANSWER TO YOUR HEATING PROBLEMS**

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Solution of the an become a valuable storage area!

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were more than three times

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# STEAMED UP

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FORMER Cabinet minister Jack Straw says MPs should be given a £10,000-a-year pay rise in order to attract more candidates working-class back

order to attract more candidates from working-class backgrounds.

He's not wrong. Talk to anybody living in one of the less affluent parts of the West Midlands and the message is always the same. People always say: "I'd really love to be an MP, I believe I have something to offer my constituents. But the thing is, I couldn't get by on 66 grand a year."

THE idea to give MPs a whacking great pay rise came not from the honourable members themselves, but from the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, the body set up at a cost of £6.6 million to restore the public's confidence in MPs.

But given that the proposals from IPSA, already under fire over its own running costs, have so far only managed to stoke up the controversy about MP's salary, here is an alternative idea.

Why not do away with all the expensive independent bodies, and simply link MPs' pay to inflation, just like they do with the state pension?

Of course there will be a debate about which measure of inflation for factors.

Of course there will be a debate

Of course there will be a debate about which measure of inflation is used, but the answer to that is easy. Just go for the lowest one. See? I've solved the problem already, and at a fraction of the millions of pounds spent on IPSA. Just send me a cheque in the post for, I dunno, £66,000 a year. That should cover it.

CONGRATULATIONS to Andy Murray for becoming the first Briton in 77 years to win Wimbledon. But can we now leave it at

don. But can we now leave it at

on. But can we now leave it at that?

While the patriot in me is pleased to see somebody from these fair islands win a major sporting event, I didn't like tennis last week, and I'm not going to pretend I like it this week.

I've always taken the view that tennis is a bit of a soft sport, with too many highly strung, temperamental types who throw tantrums the moment the going gets a bit tough. On the other hand, it brings a lot of pleasure to many people, and it is good that they have something to celebrate.

There is something very unsportsmanlike, though, about the way some people just jump on the bandwagon of any particular sport the moment a big international competition comes along, particularly if somebody from this country does well at it.

It was the same with the Olympics last year. Who was interested in cycling before Bradley Wiggins' triumph in the Tour de France? How many people who deck out their houses with red-and-white buntling at World Cup time will bother to turn

people who deck out their houses with red-and-white bunting at World Cup time will bother to turn out to local football grounds. It will be interesting to see how many people caught up in the hysteria of Murray-mania will be paying such close attention to the US Open in a couple of months.







# TA to the soldiers who back up regular Army

**DANIEL WAINWRIGHT** looks at the unsung volunteer reservists who combine their duties with a full-time job

THEY are the weekend warriors training to back up Britain's mil-

itary.

They hold down full time jobs and spend their evenings and many of their weekends training all over the country to handle harsh terrain and the pressure of being under fire.

One of the Territorial Army reservists, Abby Plant works in finance for environmental consultancy Adas in Pendeford. The 24-year-old from Codsall spends her weekdays in an office but on Saturdays gets up at 5am, dresses in camouflage gear and carries a heavy rucksack to run up and down hills in Surrey.

This week she takes her exams as part of her accounting technician diploma.

At the weekend Gunner Plant of 106 (Yeomanry) Regiment Royal Artillery may have to carry a backpack weighing

may have to carry a backpack weighing 20kg (44lb) six miles within 90 minutes, Sleep out in the open in Salisbury or drive Land Rovers the way they were built to be driven – off road.

#### **Physically**

Former Codsall High School pupil Gunner Plant, of Bromley Gardens, said: "It's an exciting life. It's exhausting and it can take it out of you, but you always feel that you've accomplished something. "I wasn't particularly physically fit when I joined but I thought if I don't do this now I'll keep putting it off," she added.

added.

Now she is at the gym two or three times a week and is part of a running club with her fellow soldiers.

She walks the several miles to work each morning and then runs home in the

evening.
Over the past decade the Territorial
Army has deployed 26,000 reservists

MARTE VILLE

Abby Plant combines her TA role with a financial job near Wolverhampton

including 22,000 to Iraq and Afghan-istan. A tour of duty lasts six months istan. A tour of duty lasts six months but follows three months of full time, intensive training. In that time 30 have

intensive training. In that time 30 have been killed.

The Army is reducing the number of regular Army soldiers from 102,000 down to 82,000. Some serving soldiers are being put on notice that they are facing redundancy and the government is prepared to spend £1.8 billion to expand the TA to fill the void.

expand the 1A to fill the void.

As well as the weekend commitments there is the prospect that one day Abby will find herself overseas alongside

regular army soldiers. Her parents Nick, aged 53 and Vicky, 51, understand what the role involves, as does her employer. However, there are legal protections that ensure a job is kept open for any TA soldier who goes on a tour. When the Army needs Territorial soldiers, it goes through a process called mobilisation. Territorials are only called up if the army needs them

up if the army needs them.

They or their employers can object if it would seriously affect their lives or

Abby joined the TA two and a half years ago on the same day as Ross

Grosvenor from Walsall. Gunner Grosvenor, aged 21, works as a service adviser at the Brindley Nissan garage in Delta Way, Cannock.

Delta Way, Cannock.

He lives with his parents Simon, 51—who also served in the TA with the Staffordshire Regiment – and Lynn, 53, in Pelsall. He has a sister, Zoe, aged 17.

On Tuesdays he finishes his 8am to 6pm shift, polishes off a sandwich or microwaveable ready meal and heads off to The TA site in Fallings Park, Wolverhamnton where he is with the Air to The TA site in Fallings Park, Wolverhampton where he is with the Air Defence Unit of 106 Regiment Royal Artillery. "I'd always had an ambition to be a pilot", he said.
"After I left Queen Mary's Grammar School in Walsall I applied to the Royal Air Force. But when I got to Cranwell they said I lacked life experience by wanting to join straight from school.
"I joined the TA and following 12 months of training passed out in January last year.

last year.
"On Tuesdays we will do any sort of training from first aid to vehicle checks and weapon handling skills," he added.

#### Weekends

"Sometimes we will devote a whole session to fitness assessments, including how many press ups we can do. I'm on the regiment shooting team which goes away on competitions to places like the Salisbury Plains.

Salisbury Plains.
"Going away with the TA takes place one or two weekends a month," Gunner Grosvenor said. "We also do a one to two week camp every year. I'm allowed to take the time off from work unpaid." His colleague Gunner Steve McHugh, aged 23, has been with the TA for five

aged 23, has been with the TA for five years. He works at the Co-Op petrol station in Wombourne.

His work with the TA saw him spend three months in London during the Olympics, supporting the regular army and seeing the Paralympics opening ceremony. He said: "For me it's a social life as well as work."

For details on joining the TA visit army.mod.uk or call 0845 600 8080.

# THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

COMEDIAN Lenny Henry found it no laughing matter when he turned up to open the wrong summer fete in Duelty. Lenny turned up to open the Burton Road Hospital fete when he should have been six miles away at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge.

ATTENDANCE at Wolver-hampton's four public baths spi-ralled as the region sizzled in 90 degree temperatures. More than 9,000 people used the Bilston, Bushbury, Central and Heath Town baths in the first week of July.

A SCHOOL leaver from Lower A SCHOOL leaver from Lower Gornal planned to beat the dole crew by creating a high-flying job for himself – washing aeroplanes. David Carter started cleaning planes for the West Midlands Flight Centre at Halfpenny Green airport after leaving Ellows Hall School.

#### 1993.....

A £260,000 project aimed at stopping youngsters from becoming car thieves was launched in Wolverhampton. Project leader Simon Brittain said he hoped the scheme for 12 to 18-vear-olds would steer to 18-year-olds would steen young people in the right direction.

A MOTORIST was hailed a hero after dragging a Wolver-hampton pensioner out of his smoke-filled bungalow. But the mystery samaritan, who also pulled a burning chair out of the East Park property, disappeared before anyone could thank him.

SIXTH-form pupils from a girls' school at Brewood appeared before Wolverhampton magistrates – in a mock trial. The teenagers at St Dominic's were involved in the event as part of a scheme to raise social

#### 2003...

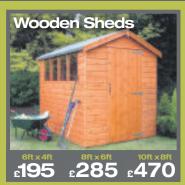
THREE Wolverhampton teachers hoped to scale new heights when they set off on the gruelling Three Peaks Challenge. They aimed to climb Scotland's Ben Nevis, England's Scafell Pike and Wales's Snowden in 24 hours.

FIREFIGHTERS extinguishing HIREFIGHTERS extinguishing a blazing car were left stunned when it took off – without any driver. The crew were left baffled when the car, believed to be stolen, mysteriously started racing down the field and performed a U-turn before shudderies to the before shuddering to a halt.

PUPILS and staff at Kings ichool in Tettenhall had a hairraising experience to raise money for charity. Brightlycoloured wigs, shaved heads and unique cuts were on show as they raised £500 for Barnardos

# **SUMMER SALE**

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# Thanks from councillor's w

RE: The late Cllr Tom Ansell

RE: The late Clir Tom Ansell May I through your forum thank the Manor Hospital from the paramedics to the A&E unit, the AMU ward and the ITU ward for all their care and professionalism they gave to my husband. My sincere thanks to you all for trying to save my husband's life.

Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people of Walsall for their cards and wonderful tributes regarding Tom.

waisall for their cards and wonderful tributes regarding Tom.
It was comforting to know that so many people respected Tom in so many ways regarding help, support and guid-ance.

I would like to thank Roy Quinton Funeral Services for the dignity and professional service they gave, and I thank immensely the wonderful tribute Sir Richard Shepherd and Councillor Garry Perry and my sons Darren, Jason and my grandchildren gave. It was a very emotional time for me.

me.
There are two particular ladies who helped me from day one to organise the funeral who work at Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, their names are Mrs R Bacha and Mrs D Baker, they worked non-stop to organise the smooth running of the funeral, so

Thank you Mark for giving us a wonderful service and last but not least a big thank you to the Staffordshire Reg-iment and Mascot for their guard of honour for Tom

honour for Tom.

Thank you all once again the people of Walsall, Tom was born in Walsall and he was so proud to serve the people of Walsall and I know he will not only be missed as a husband, father, grandfather but also as a politician and friend. God bless you all.

ROSEMARY ANSELL

RIGHERIAL

### Search to find Friar Park family

CAN anyone help? I am trying to trace the descen-dants of John Cox and Ethel Eliza Challinor who married on December 3, 1927. They had, I think eight children and lived in the Bassett Road, Dorsett Road area of Friar Park, Wednes-hury urtil John's death in

bury, until John's death in the 1940s when my aunt re-married and the family relo-cated further into West Bromwich.
Any information please contact 01902 608191.

N CHALLINOR Willenhall

#### Is hospital's bid serious?

WALSALL wants to take over Cannock Hospital. Surely they are kidding? They want to sort Walsall

out first! MR P CRUTCHLY Walsall

#### LETTERS to the Editor

#### **POST**

Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL walsallchronicle@ expressandstar.co.uk

# Dismayed by decision to take Carl off the air

As one local misurant of amoner, I add in support to Carl Chinn and am dismayed entirely by the decision to take his show off air on BBC Radio WM. Having appeared on Carl's show a few times and benefited from both his enthusiasm and support, I would say to remove such a programme is widenium.

ridiculous.

Carl is a huge figure in the Midlands and those of us who know him and have had the privilege to work with him appreciate his promotion of our area and his continued championing of Birmingham in publications, broadcasts and books

and books.

What with the poor standard of knowledge of history, What with the poor standard of knowledge of history, local history in particular, which our youngsters seem to possess these days, he was always putting forward our Black Country. I doubt the BBC will change it's mind now but here's hoping a commercial station will recognise Carl's following. Thanks Carl.

MARK DABBS Darlaston Road Walsall

# Inspired by brave Dianne

IT was really inspirational reading about Dianne Freeth in the Chronicle recently – a very brave and forward thinking lady.

I lost my own cousin to cancer this year and he was only 48. Just think how much more could be spent on cancer research if humankind wasn't intent on fighting the next war.

humankind wasn't intent on fighting the next war.

Life isn't a rehearsal. Life is something that only comes once and we should all take advantage of it and live it to the full. Ultimately we should live our lives for the betterment of our community society country and the nity, society, country and the

This is what Dianne is doing and may the force be with her in all she wants to do and may all her dreams

come true.

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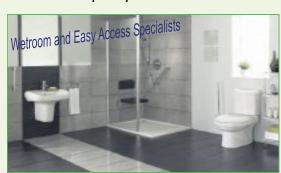
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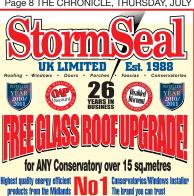
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#### **NEWS**

# Man died at scene of first kiss with his wife

A FATHER-OF-THREE hanged himself from the tree where he and his wife had their first kiss, an inquest heard.

an inquest heard.

Parmajit Singh Sidhu, 34, of Streetly was found at the tree in Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, hours after texting his wife to say: "I will wait for you in my next life babes, you will find me under the tree where we first kissed."

An inquest in Smethwick was told how Mr Sidhu, from Katsura Close, was found by police on May 28 last year following a five-hour search, after his wife Amarjit alerted his family and the police.

#### Canada

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain was told that Mr Sidhu, also known as Datus, and his wife had sep-arated earlier that year and he went to Canada shortly before his death. It was not certain that it would be a permanent separation permanent separation

His wife had tried calling



Parmajit Singh Sidhu, aged 34, killed himself

him back a number of times after his text message, him back a number of times after his text message, before calling several members of his family, and then the police. Pc Thomas Parkes, who attended the scene, said: "The original call came shortly after 11am from Mrs Sidhu regarding a text

message about the place where they first kissed, which she knew to be Dart-mouth Park. But she could

mouth Park. But she could not give a precise location." Police used Mr Sidhu's mobile phone signals to trace him, which placed him within Dartmouth Park. His body was discovered at about 5pm that day.

Recording his verdict that Mr Sidhu killed himself, Mr Balmain said: "It's not the function of an inquest to deal with motive."

function of an inquest to deal with motive."

He also said that these types of cases were 'enormously distressing', and he had a general concern that the number of inquests he has conducted where hanging was involved had increased 'dramatically'.

After the inquest, Mr Sidhu's mother Sanjit Kaur described the lorry driver and former soldier as 'very family orientated'.

She said: "He was well known in the community, and there was over 700 people at his funeral, who came from all over the world."

# Sickness falls after nurse brought in

SICKNESS absence at Walsall Council has fallen over the last 12 months, following a new system to reduce the number of staff missing from work, figures have revealed.

Absence levels have reduced to an average of under nine days per employee in 2012/13, compared to over 12 in 2009/2010.

A nurse-led system was introduced more than 18 months go where staff have to speak to a nurse when calling in sick.

It followed a trial in some departments

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# **Growers are defiant after** yobs go on wrecking spree



Vandals used green paint to ruin the mural that Kate Frost had painted on her shed with her nephew Oliver Smith **DEFIANT** plot-holders at an allotment in Rushall say they will not be beaten following an attack by vandals

an attack by vandals
Paint was daubed over a colourful
children's mural at Cartbridge Lane
Allotments in Rushall as part of the
mean-spirited raid on the plots on Saturday night, June 29.
Managers of the Cartbridge Lane
site ave made a plea for anyone with
information to come forward.
They said people had been left devastated by the trail of destruction, including an arson attack but would rebuild
despite the yobs.

despite the vobs.

The wreckers set fire to a shed and tried to break into another shed, which was daubed with anti-vandal paint. They destroyed a mural of TV characters Bill and Ben painted on the side of a shed used to encourage children to learn about planting.

of a sned used to encourage children to learn about planting.
William Locke, 52, of Ryecroft, said:
"Whoever was responsible left tracks behind of green paint and we think they may have dropped green paint on them. Anyone who saw anything suspi-cious in the area should contact police"

police."
Mr Locke, a member of the site committee and of East Walsall Local Management Association, which looks after

four sites, added: "There has been a problem with break-ins for quite some

"But everyone is determined to carry on. We're not going to give up and let these people win."

Security

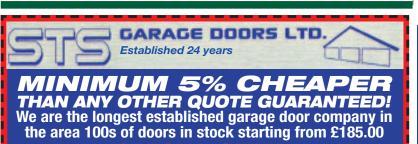
Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Members are now applying for grants to install better fencing and gates to improve security. Thousands of pounds worth of tools were stolen during a raid on the site in February.

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# Restored landmark is to be site of team dig

on Walsall's landmark Barr Beacon later this month for a community excavation and building recording project.

The Council for British Archaeology West Midlands will be working with Walsall Council's countryside services team at the

Council's countryside services team at the site from July 16 to 21.

Volunteers will also be able to get involved. The project will finish with an open day on July 21 when a hands-on activities will be on offer.

It comes after a £400,000 restoration project at the site has been completed.

Ceremony

Discussions are taking place around a rededication ceremony in 2014, and plans are in the pipeline for various community

ents. Councillor Adrian Andrew, chairman of Barr Beacon Trust, said: "This is fantastic news for Barr Beacon and gives our commu-nities a chance to get involved in a fascinat-

"We know there is some evidence of pre-historic and Roman activity in the form of spot finds but these are not accurately located.

located.

"Evidence of activity during the Second World War, possibly associated with ammunition storage, has also been identified.

"The excavation and building recording project will hopefully address some of the many unanswered questions around Barr Beacon as well as raise the profile of this important local landmark."

#### **Poundland store deal**

POUNDLAND has renewed its deal for its store in Walsall's Saddlers Centre. The shopping centre's new owners Topland secured a deal with the Willenhall-based retailer to remain in Park Mall. Steve Pope, of Topland, said: "We are delighted to have retained such a well-known local business in a key position in the Saddlers Centre.

# Marks sparks job hopes



Recruit Louise Southall, right, learns from an experienced colleague during training at a Marks &Spencer store in the Black Country

during training at a Marks &Spe WALSALL has been selected as one of 27 towns and cities across the UK taking part in a Marks & Spencer youth scheme to boost employment. Sixteen young people have now started inductions and placements at the retail giant's Walsall branch in Park Street.

in Park Street.

Marks and Spencer has teamed up with The Prince's Trust to create more than 1,400 work experience placements for 16 to 25-year-olds.

It comes as youth unemployment levels recently reached record highs, with one in five 16 to 25-year-olds struggling to find work. In Walsall, one in four young people are jobless. Marc Bolland, chief executive of M&S, said: "Youth unemployment has become one of today's key social

issues and we want to lead the charge for businesses to do more to tackle it head on.

"That's why we've set aside 1,400 new placements for young people in our stores and have called on our suppliers and other businesses to start engaging their communities and make their own commitments

One young person who has benefitted is Louise Southall, from Walsall, who completed a placement and has since landed a job in the

and has since landed a job in the outlet store in West Bromwich.

"Marks & Start not only gave me training and work experience, but it quite simply gave me my confidence back," she said

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# Salon days as Alice is new boss

Stylist Emily Roper, left, with Alice Cheeseman at the revamped salon A HAIRDRESSER is cele-brating taking over as boss at the Pelsall salon where at the Pelsall salon where she used to work as a Satur-day girl. Alice Cheeseman is now director and manager of Alice at HC Group, in Norton Road. She said she was thrilled

to relaunch the shop just a
year after finishing her
training at Walsall College
and is now looking to take on
her own trainee.

"Walsall College has given
me a let of support in this

"Walsall College has given me a lot of support in this, particularly my tutor Christine Wilkes," added the former Brownhills School pupil. "It's fantastic to be the director of a salon at just 20-years-old and I have a lot of exciting plans."

Christine Wilkes, college hairdressing tutor, said-

hairdressing tutor, said: "Alice is a great example of how an apprenticeship can equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to progress quickly."

# Scam led to police chase after at business £700 quote to remove nest

remove a fictitious bees nest from a couple's garden for £700, sparking a dramatic police chase after they foiled the scam.
The West Midlands Police force helicopter was dispatched

to Walsall after the conman, posing as a gardener, by Lisa O'Brien

Inquiries were continuing to trace a second suspect who was seen running away from the parked van. Police have warned resi-

dents to remain vigilant and be on their guard when dealing with callers.

dealing with callers.
Detective Sergeant Steve
Walters, from Bloxwich CID,
said: "You should always be
suspicious about people
arriving at your house unannounced offering their services. This couple did exactly
the right thing, told him to
leave and contacted police.
"They later searched
through their garden and
checked with neighbours
but there was no sign of a
bees nest.

bees nest.

"Rogue traders can be very convincing and innovative in the ruses they use to

try and get people to part with their money – this time it was a bees nest, but others

have included rat catching

burst water pipes, question-naires and meter readers."

Witnesses should call Bloxwich CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anony-mously on 0800 555111.

approached a couple in their 80s at their home in Pelsall.

He claimed their garden had a bees nest that was to nad a bees nest that was causing concern among neighbours. He offered to get rid of the problem in exchange for the exorbitant fee. The bees nest, however, did not exist.

did not exist.

The pensioners declined to pay and after becoming suspicious they spoke to their neighbours who dialled 999. Police were on the scene within minutes of the call being made at 9am on Wednesday of last week and the force helicopter joined the search for the suspect's vehicle.

The pair reported the man

The pair reported the man The pair reported the man driving off in a red box van, and minutes later, officers found a vehicle matching the description parked in Walsall Road, Great Wyrley.

Walsall Road, Great Wyrley.
After a brief chase on foot,
they arrested a 26-year-old
on suspicion of attempted
burglary. He was being questioned about the visit to the
couple's home and other
reported rogue trader-type
incidents involving people
offering bogus gardening
services in the Walsall area.

Lots of smiles at village's sunny carnival



Parent Greorgia Wilson with youngsters who took part in the the Ryders Hayes school float during Pelsall Carniva

THOUSANDS took to the sun-drenched streets of Pelsall to celebrate

The biggest procession of recent years set off from Commonside with nine floats, seven walking groups and

three bands. Two arenas in the show-ground were packed with crowds who saw a mass Zumba class, the crowning of carnival royalty and displays.

Ian Rhydderch, carnival committee ecretary, said: "An outdoor event is

ten times better if the weather is good.

"The streets were lined with specta tors for the one-and-three-quarter mile route and everybody had a big smile on their face."

# **Legion plan** family day in bid to hit fund target

raised more than £180.
Organisers hope to raise more than £2,000 this year and are continuing fundraising with a Family Day at Pelsall Common on July 27.
The day-long event kicksoff at 10am and will continue until 3pm featuring a display of motorcycles, chil-

display of motorcycles, children's fair rides and inflat-able slide, face painting, a balloon modeller and a host of stalls.

of stalls.

Karen Clifft, branch chairman, said: "At Royal British Legion Pelsall we are committed to raising funds to help our Armed Forces past and present and their families, whether it is through adaptation to their homes or holidays for the whole family."

Anymor who would like a

Anyone who would like a stall, costing £5, can contact Karen on 01922 682031.

#### **Charity crafts**

RESIDENTS of Pelsall have a chance to grab a unique gift and raise money for a cancer charity at the same time on Sunday afternoon. The craft and gift fair at Pelsall Labour Club, in Church Road, is in aid of the the Mouth Cancer Foundation

The event will be on from noon until 4pm with a small donation for admission.

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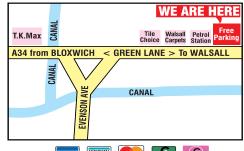


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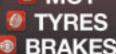
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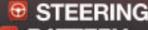
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# **Hospitals face massive** fines over A&E delays



Walsall Manor Hospital facing a fine of £22,800 for failing to accept patients at the emergency department soon enough

**HOSPITALS** including Sandwell General and Walsall Manor are facing huge fines for failing to accept patients at emergency departments soon

Rules introduced in April mean hospital trusts can be fined £200 every time they take between 30 and 60 minutes for a patient to be handed over to A&E after their arrival by ambulance.

The fines, levied by local clinical commissioning groups, reach £1,000 if the wait is more than 60 minutes, as

was the case with 91 ambulances in the Black Country and Stafford in April.
Hospitals in the region, including Sandwell in West Bromwich, Walsall Manor, Stafford, Russells Hall, New Cross, Worcestershire Royal, Birmingham Children's and Queen Elizabeth, are responsible for \$429,000 of fines.

#### **Breaches**

Sandwell Hospital could be fined £80,000 for 272 breaches, 32 of which saw patients waiting for more than one hour to be handed over.

Vanya Rogers, spokesman for Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "We have been

working extremely hard to improve handover times and with an eye to the coming winter we have implemented a trust-wide strategy."
Walsall Manor and New Cross are looking at fines of £22,800 each.
Birmingham Children's Hospital faces a £4,000 fine, while the QE in Edgbaston could be fined £97,000. The worst performer in the West Midlands was Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, which faces a £219,200 fine. Russells Hall, Dudley, could be fined £128,800
West Midlands Ambulance Service faces a £16,200 fine for failing to meet turnaround targets in April.

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# Golf club pro arrested over indecent images

been arrested on suspicion of downloading indecent downloading images of children.

images of children.

Guy Dean has worked across
Staffordshire and the Black Country
including at clubs in Penn, Rowley
Regis, West Bromwich, Pelsall and
Cannock over his career. He was
arrested in April.
Penn Golf Club accepted his resignation with immediate effect after the
arrest

arrest.

Mr Dean, aged 43, has not yet been charged and has been bailed to a date in September. He said he had been helping police with enquiries.

"There's nothing I can say yet really as the investigation is ongoing," he said. "I've helped with police inquiries. I have told them everything I know." Mr Dean had continued to offer tuition at Fishley Park, Pelsall, after his resignation at Penn.

Roy Johnson, a director of Fishley Park, said: "He wasn't an employee. He came and did lessons with us and

He came and did lessons with us and



Golf club professional Guy Dean

"Fishlev Park is a family business but I wasn't aware of this arrest until now. In the light of these events we have now parted company." According to Fishley Park's website, Mr Dean had been teaching there since 1991. He started his professional career at Beaudesert Golf Club in Rugeley Road, Cannock, in 1986, In 1996 he joined ranks with European Seniors Tour player Jim Rhodes at South Staffordshire Golf Club. He was also head professional at

He was also head professional at Dartmouth Golf Club, West Bromwich, before he spent five years as head pro-fessional at Dudley Golf Club, Rowley Regis, in 2000.

#### **Bailed**

In 2005 Mr Dean became head professional at Penn Golf Club in Wolverhampton, which he left with immediate effect in April after tendering his resignation.

Staffordshire Police spokesman Faye Casey said: "A 43-year-old man from Bloxwich was arrested in April on suspicion of possession of and making

blowind was arrested in April of sus-picion of possession of, and making, indecent images of children. He has been bailed, pending further inquiries, to a date in September." Penn Golf Club declined to comment, citing legal reasons.

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# Sign can stay for five more years



The controversial digital sign located beside the M6 can stay for at least five more years

beside a busy stretch of the M6 has been given the go-ahead to

has been given the go-ahead to remain for another five years.

The sign, which was converted to digital in the spring, is in the grounds of Banks's Stadium in Walsall.

More than 90 accidents have been reported along the stretch of the motorway approaching the hoarding in four years.

Three serious or fatal smashes happened on the adjacent section of the M6 between 2008 and 2012. There were another 91 classified as slight.

2008 and 2012. There were another 91 classified as slight.

The Highways Agency had said: "We understand that high levels of LED illumination can impair the visibility of motorists."

Five residents living nearby had also objected because of the sign's size, brightness and potential for distracting drivers.

Despite this, the application was

approved by Walsall Council's planning committee at a meeting last week.

Council leader Councillor Mike Bird said: "My view is there is no danger to highway safety because people aren't driving 70 or 80mph. They get to 40 or 50mph along that stretch if they're lucky.

"Since the sign was erected there has not been one accident attributed to the sign."

A 50mph speed limit is currently in place along that section of motorway, between junctions nine and eight, as work takes place to introduce hard shoulder running.

The digital adverts replaced the existing

to introduce hard shoulder running. The digital adverts replaced the existing boards on the sign erected five years ago as part of a  $\pounds 2$  million investment. There are a series of other illuminated posters and light boxes in the area. The sign operators will be allowed to change the advertisement they display only every 20 seconds. The owners had been pushing for every 15 seconds.

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THE dream of going from roadie to rock star is coming true for one musician from Walsall after supporting a Birmingham rock legend.

Until recently Joe Summers had only been able to watch his musical heroes from backstage a technical engineer for performers but a twist of fate has launched his own career. The 27-year-old from Chuckery, a former student at Barr Beacon School, got his break when his university lecturer.

The while on Steve Winwood's tour in Europe singer Joe and his power to be a support the graduate had just finished studying music at the University of Gloucestershire in Cheltenham and was looking for his first break in a technical capacity in the industry. Then while on Steve Winwood's tour in Europe singer Joe with its charge to ship when the hand meant to support the



Joe Summers seen in concert, pictured by Ross Mitchell

got his chance to shine when the band meant t o support the star singer pulled out at the last minute. Joe was given the nod and so picked up his guitar and stepped into the spotlight.

#### Radio 2

He said: "This has really been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me and it's been a great chance to develop my music."

music."

The singer-songwriter, who counts Bob Dylan, Nick Drake and Joni Mitchell among his influences, has won many fans including Radio 2 DJ Steve Lamacq who regularly plays his tracks on his show.

"I've still got a part-time job between tours but I'm gradually getting to the point where I gig enough to support myself," said Joe. "The Black Country is an area that seems to attract and produce musicians."

As well as Steve Winwood, who was a member of 60s hitmakers The Spencer Davis Group and psychedelic rockers Traffic, Joe has supported others including Joan Armatrading, The Lightning Seeds, Frank Turner and Fyfe Dangerfield.

au. Joe is unsigned and self-managed but has finished work

on his debut album, which he hopes to release this year.

"As well as releasing my album I hope to get more opportunities to gig and play live music. I love getting out on stage and bringing music to people," he added.

### **Chuckery celebrates week-long community festival**

RESIDENTS are getting ready for a week-long celebration in Walsall. Chuckery Festival 2013, now in its third year, starts on Saturday in the grounds of Chuckery Tenant Management Organisation, off Union Street, with stalls and a barbecue.

The music and community festival, which closes on July 21 with a music extravaganza in Walsall Arboretum, has grown in popularity and is set to be giger than ever.

Activities start at Chuckery's Paddock flats at noon Saturday with a construction of Samantha Downes, Park Hall Community Choir, Primary, Blue Coat Junior and Blue Coat Academy.

The music and community festival, which closes on July 21 with a music construction of Samantha Downes, Park Hall Community festival, which closes on July 21 with a music construction.

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# Singer Joe on a journey No worries - Lion King from roadie to rock star is the 'mane' attraction



Nicholas Nkuna as Simba and Carole Stennett as Nala

Disney presents The Lion King,

Birmingham Hippodrome
THE popular Disney animated movie
turned blockbuster musical has
roared into the Midlands and it is a
spectacular production that will live

spectacular production that will live long in the memory.

That's just how it should be, when audiences are paying West End prices they expect and deserve London theatreland production values. Disney deliver those in this colourful, creative touring version of the West End and Broadway hit.

The costumes and puppets are breathtaking, right from the moment elephants and a rhino stroll down the Hippodrome aisles to join leaping antelopes and lofty giraffes striding across the stage as the international cast sing Elton John's Circle of Life.

It is a jaw-dropping set piece, matched at the start of the second act

It is a jaw-dropping set piece, matched at the start of the second act

when the actors turn the auditorium into an aviary for swooping buzzards and birds of paradise.

and pirgs of paradise.
The scenery and costumes are ingenious as actors become grassland savannahs with the help of surreal hats or herd of gazelles via a double bicycle contraption.

#### **Dynamic**

At the heart of the show is a simple story of a boy becoming a man, or rather cub becoming a lion, as Simba learns to face up to his responsibilities and make his murdered father proud by saving the family pride of lions.

Several youngsters share the roles of young lion and lioness Simba and Nala. At this performance dynamic little Joshua Cameron and delightful Donica Elliston were excellent.

Elliston were excellent.

Nicholas Nkuna had a noble bearing

and good voice as Simba, almost eclipsed by Carole Stennett as the

South African singer Gugwana Dlamini stars as Rafiki n the auditorium wooping buzzards feisty strong-voiced Nala. Stephen gearlie verged on panto villain as Simba's evil uncle Scar but the incred-

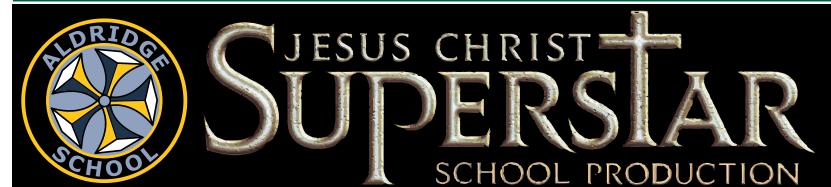
Simba's evil uncle Scar but the incredible Gugwana Dlamini, the best singer by far, was the audience's favourite as the bizarre baboon Rafiki.

Of course, the children's favourites are wisecracking duo Timon and the latulent Pumbaa, excellent characterisations by John Hasler and Mark Roper respectively in elaborate costume puppet combinations.

This production is not without flaws, sometimes Tim Rice's witty lyrics are lost in the mix. But the catchiest song lakuna Matata – Swahili for 'no worries'- was so infectious that many left the theatre singing it after the audience gave the show a standing audience gave the show a standing

You can feel the love for this show. It continues at the Hippodrome until September 28

Leon Burakowski



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# **What's On!** Walsall

#### Free jazz festival gig at The Public

gig at The Public
JAZZ singer Roy Forbes
will be performing with a
quartet in a free gig at The
Fublic in West Bromwich
as part of Birmingham
International Blues and
Jazz Festival.

The gig featuring the
Brian Dee Quartet takes
place on Saturday from
Spm. Mr Forbes began his
jazz career with the late
Birmingham jazz legend
Andy Hamilton. Linda
Saunders, managing director of The Public said: "The
festival coincides with the or or the Public said: "The festival coincides with the launch of the New Square Development, so over the course of the weekend West Bromwich will be buzzing with activity."

#### Family fun in parks

MUSICAL and children's

MUSICAL and children's activities will be held in Walsall parks this summer. Events are being held in Reedswood Park, Birchills, on July 29, and Holland Park, Brownhills, on July 31. In August there will be events in Darlaston, Pleck, Pheasey, Palfrey and Willenhall. Leisure chief councillor Anthony Harris said: "We have hundreds of people turn out for our park fun days, they're really popular." See www.whatsonwal sall.co.uk or call 01922 654893 for information.

#### It's a thriller night

MEMBERS of Aldridge MEMBERS of Aldridge Youth Theatre join forces with the adults for a production of Emlyn Williams thriller Night Must Fall, directed by Lee Tregellis. It sat the Noddy Park Road theatre from tonight (Thursday) to Saturday. Tickets cost £7 (concessions £6) available by calling 01922 458615.

# Blue all rise to occasion with a headline set at Judgestock

# Life is a Grand cabaret for Will

POP star Will Young is heading to Wolver-hampton to take a lead role in the touring version of the recent West End hit produc-tion of Cabaret.

The raunchy, hard-hitting musical set in 1930s Germany, contrasting hedonistic lifestyles with the rise of the Nazis, will be performed at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from November 26 to 30.

Will Young was nominated for a prestigious Olivier award for his portrayal of the comic yet sinister character Emcee. The 34-year-old rose to fame after winning the first Pop Idol contest in 2002, and still holds the record for the fastest selling debut single in British chart history with Evergreen.

As well as scoring four number one

debut single in British chart nistory wine Evergreen.

As well as scoring four number one singles, he has pursued an acting career, appearing with Dame Judi Dench in the film Mrs Henderson Presents.

The new version of Cabaret, the story of Berlin nightclub singer Sally Bowles, features such popular songs as Money Makes The World Go Round, Maybe This Time and title song Cabaret. Tickets cost between £21.50 and £39.50, available on 01902 429212 or at www.grandtheatre.co.uk Meanwhile, the 1960s heyday of crooners Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr is subject of tribute show Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular at the Grand on Sunday evening.



Will Young stars in musical Cabaret coming to Wolverhampton Grand

three-day festival Judgestock in the heart of the Black Country at Sandwell Valley over August Bank Holiday weekend

August Bank Holiday we Organisers have promised that next month's event will be bigger and better than ever with three stages featuring acts including a headline set from recently reunited boy band Blue, who had hits with All Rise, Too Close and If You Come Back.

Also on the bill is rocker Mitchel Emms, who recently featured on BBC TV show The Voice, along with various tribute acts, local bands and young people from Coneygre Arts in Tipton.

Support

#### Support

Support

The festival organised by Lee Judge has raised thousands for Macmillan Cancer Support over the years in memory of Simon Turton, a friend who lost his battle with cancer in 2011.

The 38-year-old who live in West Bromwich said: "The festival is going to be huge. Previously, Judgestock has been a one-day event but this year we really wanted to put on a weekend festival to rival some of the bigger events."

Lee has raised close to £125,000 for various causes over the past 17 years. He added: "Last year we donated around £2,000 to Macmillan



Festival organiser Lee Judge

and we're looking to better that this year."
The event, August 24-26, also support the Mayor of Sandwell's charities, Birmingham Midland Eye Centre and Better Understanding of Dementia in Sandwell.
Tickets cost £12 per day for adults or £30 for all three days. Children's tickets cost

days. Children's tickets cost £6 or £15 three days (all plus booking fees), with under-5s free when accompanied by paying adult. For information see www.judgestockmusicfesti val.co.uk

#### Rock legend has Civic concert date

LED Zeppelin rock legend Robert Plant will make a Robert Plant will make a triumphant return home to Wolverhampton Civic Hall for a concert on September 2
Plant will perform with his latest band – Sensational Space Shifters – as one of just two UK dates.
The West Bromwichborn singer last played at the Civic in 2005 when he did two shows.
The legendary Led Zep frontman is currently

frontman is currently touring in America and his only other date in the UK is at Bristol Colston Hall.

Civic tickets cost £40 standing or £45 balcony.

#### They mean it Man

THE Brotherhood of Man, who won the Eurovision Song Contest in 1976, will be appearing in Pelsall tomorrow night (Friday). The group proved such a hit on their last visit to Pelsall Community Centre, in December, that they are making a rapid return to perform their return to perform their show The 70s Story at the

Station Street venue.
The show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £16 and are available directly the community entre

#### Never sing alone

THE Birmingham and Midland Operatic Society stage classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical Carousel, most famous for the song You'll Never Walk the song You'll Never Walk Alone, at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre this week, with the last performance on Saturday night. Tickets cost £11 to £26.



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#### The Queen's Coronation BBC1, 7pm

Last summer, we helped Her Maj mark the 60th anniversary of her ascending to the throne, and now, 12 months on, we're doing it all again, this time as she celebrates 60 years since her coronation. A three-day Coronation Festival at Buckingham Palace climaxes with a spectacular evening gala. The Fanfare Trumpeters from the Household Division open the show, which also features performances from Kiri Te Kanawa, Katherine Jenkins Russell Watson, Katie

6.00 Breakfast, 10.00 Saturday 6.00 Breakfast, 10.00 Saturday kitchen Live, 11.30 Loraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food, (R) 12.00 BBC News, Regional News, Weather, 12.15 Bargain Hunt, (R) 1.00 Live MotoGP 2.00 Athletics: British Championships, 4.10 Escape to the Country, (R) 5.10 Room 101 – Extra Storage, (R) 5.50 Pointless Celebrities, (R) BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

Weather.
7.00 The Queen's Coronation
Festival Gala. Sophie
Raworth and Gareth Malone
present highlights of the
concert from Buckingham
Palace, featuring Kiri Te Palace, featuring Kiri Te Kanawa, Katherine Jenkin Russell Watson and Katie Melua

Melua.

The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton hosts as Win It. Dale Winton hosts at five contestants compete to be in the right place at the right time to win a share of the loot. Includes the National Lottery draws, presented by OJ Borg. 9.10 Casualty. Tom is on a personal visit to a prison

personal visit to a prison when a disturbance breaks out and the trouble spreads Zoe deals with a young girl who will go to great lengths to connect with her mother.

10.00 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes worries her family is too secretive. (R) 10.30 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

National Lottery Update.

10.50 Film: Enemy of the State.
(1998) An encounter with an old friend derails a lawyer's life as he ends up framed for murder and pursued the government agents. Thriller, starring Will Smith.

12.50 Weatherview. 12.55 BBC News.

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.05 Film: 6.00 Inis Is BBC Iwo. 6.05 Film: The Half Naked Truth. (1932) 7.20 Film: Best of the Badmen. (1951) 8.40 The Sky at Night. (R) 9.00 A History of Scotland. (R) 10.00 Life in the Freezer. (R) 10.30 Triathlon. 12.00 The A to Z of TV Cooking. 12.45 Golf: The Story of the Open Chapting Schizology.

Championship 2012. 1.40
EastEnders. (R) 3.30 Live
Challenge Gup Rugby League.
6.10 Flog It! Anita Manning and
Adam Partridge value items
at Sunderland's Stadium of Light, and Paul Martin visits Beamish, the Living Museum of the North in Co Durham.

(7.10 Dad's Army. The platoon re-enacts the hattle between St George and the dragon. (R) 7.40 Giant Squid: Filming the Impossible – Natural World Special. Documentary following a team of scientists using underwater robots and state-of-the-art submersibles to try to find and film a liver gentle squid for the first time.

giant squid for the first time.

Ol XL. With Sandi Toksvig.

Bill Bailey and Susan
Calman. (R)

Top of the Lake. New series.
A 12-year-old is found to be
pregnant and childprotection specialist Robin
Griffin is called in to assist
local police.

Alter. Parkin Faces Death.

local police.

10.10 Alive: Rankin Faces Death:
A Culture Show Special.

11.10 Film: Rabbit Hole. (2010)
Premiere. A couple try to kee their marriage from falling apart as they take different approaches to coping with their son's death Drama, with Nicole Kidman and Aaron Eckhart.

12.35 Golf: Scottish Open

12.35 Golf: Scottish Open Highlights. 1.35 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland 6.00 C11Y: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. 6.15 Jake and the Neverland Pirates. 6.25 Poppy Cat. 6.40 Poppy Cat. 6.50 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Bookaboo. 7.20 Kick Buttowski – Suburban Daredevil. 7.35 The Avengers: 7.20 Nok Büllüksa – Sublitation Daradevil, 7.35 The Avengers: Barth's Mightlest Heroes! 8.00 favily Falls. 8.0, 9.25 News. 3.0 favily Falls. 8.0, 9.25 News. 3.0 kg. 9.25 Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure. (1989) 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 6.00 Regional Programmer.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.15 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 You've Been Framed!
Comical clips, featuring an exploding beanbag. (R)
7.00 You've Been Framed!
Humorous footage, includi

Humorous footage, including a Reliant Robin that flips 360

a Heliant Hobin that Iflips 360 degrees. (R)
7.30 Your Face Sounds Familiar.
Guest judge Peter Andre joins Emma Bunton and Julian Clary on the panel as the celebrities impersonate more randomly selected and Paddy McGauinness host.
8.45 Isl Star Family Fortunes. Hollyoaks star Danny Mac (Mark "Dodger" Savage) and Claire Richards from Steps team up with their families in an attempt to win money for charity. Vernon Kay hosts the game show.
9.45 The Americans.

The Americans. 10.30 ITV News: Weather 10.50 Film: Hot Fuzz. (2007) Action comedy, starring Simon Pegg.

12.55 Jackpot247. 3.00 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreen.

#### **CHANNEL 4**

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hóobs. (R) 7.05 Caterham UK Racing. 7.30 The Grid. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Frasier. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 12.30 Undercover Boss Canada. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. 4.15 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.45 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.50 Come Dine with Me.

Gome Dine with Me. (R)

6.20 Come Dine with Me.
Hairdresser Kim Connor
hosts the final party in
Huddersfield, hoping her American diner-themed menu will delight her guests. (R) 6.50 Channel 4 News.

Ramadan Diaries.

Grand Designs. The conversion of a lifeboat station into a contemporary home. (R)

home. (R)

8.20 The Million Pound Drop
Live. Davina McCall presents
the quiz show in which
contestants are challenged to
place large quantities of cash
over trapdoors as they face a
series of questions.

series of questions.

10.00 Film: Repo Men. (2010)

Premiere. A man employed to repossess artificial organs questions his career when he needs a mechanical heart he cannot pay for. Sci-fi thriller, with Jude Law and Forest Whitaker.

with Jude Law and Forest Whitaker.

12.15 Film: The Cave. (2005) Horror, starring Morris Chestnut and Lena Headey. 2.00 Verry Terry. (R) 2.25 Mesh: Tourist Trap. (R) 2.35 Mesh: Tourist Trap. (R) 2.35 Southland. (R) 3.25 Hollyoaks. (R) 5.36 Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

#### **CHANNEL 5**

6.00 Milkshakel 10.00 Power Rangers Samurai (R) 10.30 ThunderCats (R) 11.00 Inside Hollywood. 11.05 Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) 12.30 Cowby Traders. (R) 1.30 CSI: NY. (R) 2.25 SI: NY. (R) 3.15 Film: Jesses Stone: Death in Paradise. (2006) 5.00 Fat. Sick and Nearly Dead. 7.00 Cricket: The Ashes. England V Australia. Mark Micholas presents action from day resents action from day in the second innings was likely to be taking shape ahead of the final day.

final day.

8.00 NCIS. The team tries to locate a kidnapped girl but has to contend with her grandfather, a former member of a disbanded special forces unit who interferes in the case. (R)

interferes in the case. (F)
900 NCIS. The team investigates
what at first appears to be a
straightforward robbery, until
Tony discovers a homeowner
lied to police after shooting
the intruder. (R)

ne intruder. (H)
9.50 5 News Weekend.
10.00 Big Brother. Highlights of
another 24 hours in the Big
Brother house. Including
coverage of the latest
eviction as seen from the
point of view of the
contestants.

contestants.

1.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. AJ Odudu is joined by a panel of psychologists and celebrity fans to analyse the housemates' behaviour.

12.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 Nick's Quest. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 Roary the Baging Car (F).

Quest. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.10 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.50 Hana's Helpline. (R)

**DIGITAL** 

7.00 UEFA Women's Euro 2013. Finland v Sweden (Kick-off 7.30pm). 9.30 The Script and Dizzee Rascal @ T 10.00 Rihanna and Calvin Harris @ T

Listings supplied by Press Associati

BBC Four BBC Four 7.00 Heritage! The Battle for Britain's Past 8.00 Nelson's Caribbean Hell-Hole: An Eighteenth Caribbean Hell-Hole: An Eighteer Century Navy Graveyard Uncover 9.00 Wallander: The Man Who Smiled 11.10 Bobby Bland: Two Steps from the Blues

11V2
4.55 Film: Star Wars: Episode IV —
A New Hope (1977) 7.30 Film: The Mummy (1999) 10.00 Film: I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (2007)

11V3
2.45 Film: The Four Musketeers
(1974) 4.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot
7.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 9.00
Lewis 11.00 Cold Blood II

1TV4
2.00 Tour de France 2013 Live.
Coverage of stage 14 of the world's most famous cycle race. 4.30
Police, Camera, Action! 5.00 British Superbike Championship Highlights 6.00 The Motorbike Show 7.00
Tour de France 2013 Highlights
Wheels 10.00 Film: Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels (1998)

5.25 The Mindy Project 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 How I Met Your Mother 8.00 Happy Endings 8.30 2 Broke Girls 9.00 Film: Beverly Hills Cop III (1994) 11.05 The Inbetweeners

3.05 Congo (1995) 5.10 The Iron Giant (1999) 6.50 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) 9.00 Source Code (2011) 10.50 Aliens (1986)

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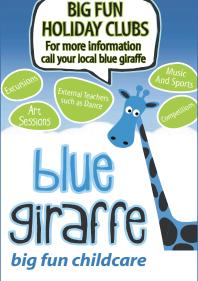
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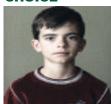
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#### **SUNDAY'S TV** 14.07.13

#### CHOICE



Swann Nambotin

#### Channel 4, 9pm

What is going on in the small French town? We've seen five episodes so far, and we're none the wiser. Instead, we're intrigued, gripped and, if truth be known, a little bit frustrated; it's time we learned a little bit more learned a little bit more about what's going on, if only for our peace of mind. Pierre should certainly not be trusted – after all, he was present when little Victor and his family were slaughtered by burglars.
Nevertheless, he remains a trusted member of the community, especially after he calls a meeting of the families affected by the school-bus accident.

#### BBC<sub>1</sub>

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Monitos; Ive. 11.00 Sunday Politics; Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.20 Countryfile. (8) 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (8) 2.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 3.00 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.30 Biscape to the Country, (R) 5.00 Mongs of Praise. 5.35 Earthflight. (R) 5.35 Barthflight. (R) 5.35 BRI News Septional News:

6.35 BBC News: Regional News:

5.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather
7.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team values more decorative objects and rarties at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, including a painting thought to be by Constable and a set of designs for exotic jewellery.
8.00 Countryfile. Elile Harrison at the control of the countryfile state of the c

9.00 The White Queen. Warwick orders Isabel back to
England to retain her
husband George's loyalty to
King Henry VI, while
Margaret Beaufort is furious
to discover Elizabeth has had

10.00 BBC News; Regional News;

weatner.

10.25 Luther. The detective's date is interrupted by news of another murder. (R)

11.25 Live at the Apollo. With Kevin Bridges. Shanni

Kevin Bridges, Shappi Khorsandi and Jack Whitehall. (R) 11.55 Film: Two for the Money. (2005) Gambling drama, with Al Pacino.

1.50 Weatherview. 1.55 BBC News

BBC2

6.00 This is BBC Two. 7.00 Film: Every Day's a Holiday. (1965) 8.30 Monty Don's French Gardens. (R) 9.30 The Beechgrove Garden. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Welf. (R) 12.00 What to Eat Now. (R) 12.30 Live MotoGP. 2.00 Athletics: British Championships. 4.00 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League.

League.
6.30 A Race Against Time: Hilary Lister's Round Britain Dream.
7.30 Wild Cameramen at Work. New series. Five wildlifte cameramen reflect on their favourite natural history moments.

moments.

8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May head to Spain to help its struggling economy and create a street circuit. Benedict Cumberbatch drives the Reasonably Priced Car.

9.00 Hunt vs Lauda: F1's Greatest Racing Rivals. The battle for the 1976 world drivers' championship.

10.00 Blackadder the Third. The new prime minister plots to bankrupt the Prince Regent. (R) 10.35 Mock the Week. With Josh Widdicombe, Ed Byrne and

Hal Cruttenden. (R) 11.05 What a Load of Buzzcocks.

11.35 Golf: Scottish Oper

12.35 Film: Everything. (2004) 2.05 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 3.00 Holby City. (R) 4.00 This Is BBC Two.

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6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. 6.15 Jake and the Neverland Pirates. 6.25 Poppy Cat. 6.40 Poppy Cat. 6.50 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Bookaboo. 7.20 Kick Buttowski – Suburban Daredevil. 7.35 The Avengers: Daredewil 7.35 The Avengers:
Larth's Mightist Hencel 8.00
Sonny with a Chance. 8.25 ITV
Mews. 8.30 Country House Sunday.
9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.
(R) 10.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R)
11.20 ITV News: Weather. 11.25
Film: Columbo: An Exercise in
Fatality. (1974) 1.25 Love Your
Garden. (R). 2.25 Film: Always.
(1989) 4.35 A Touch of Frost. (R).
9.00 Reviews Press Pr

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.45 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.
7.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.
Jane McDonald, Rosemary
Shrager and Louie Spence
take part in the quiz show in
which contestants answer
which contestants answer
a crade-style machine. Ben
Shephard presents.
8.00 All Star Mr & Mrs. With Una
Healy of the Saturdays and
England rugby union player
Ben Foden. Ty presenter
Yvette Fielding and her
husband Karl Beattie, and
comedian Eddie Large with
his wife Patsy.
9.00 Law & Order: UK. New

9.00 Law & Order: UK. New series. Part one of two. A suicidal man causes a train crash and 15 deaths.

10.00 ITV News: Weather

10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.15 The Talent Show Story. How
The X Factor became one of
TV's biggest shows. (R)
11.15 Murder, She Wrote. (R)
12.10 The Store. 2.15 Motorsport
UK. 3.00 British Superbike
Championship Highlights. 3.50
Monk. (R) 4.35 ITV Nightscreen.
5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

**CHANNEL 4** 

CITAINNEL 4

5.00 The Tracale Paople. (R) 6.10
The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 FIA CIT Series.
7.30 Ironnan 2013 7.55 Rat Race
Dirty Weekend. 8.36 Everybody
Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 Frasier.
(R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30
The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.00 The
Simpsons. (R) 1.30 The Simpsons.
(R) 2.00 Film: Farne. (2009) 4.05
Deal or No Deal. 50 Film: Marley
Starring oven Wilson and Jennifer
Aniston.
7.20 Channel 4 News

Channel 4 News

Ramadan Diaries. Short films following British Muslims as they observe Ramadan.

Muslim's as they observe Ramadan.

Boudica's Lost Tribe: A Time Team Special. Tony Robinson traces the story of the female warrior, following an excavation in Norfolk that happened to her tribe, the loseni, after their defeat. (R) The Returned. The town is affected by a power cut, with Pierre forming a community around Camille and Julie finding refuge at Laure's house with Victor, whose body is undergoing a transformation.

10.10 Film: Attack the Block. (2011) A student nurse and a teenage gang band together to fight off alien invaders terrorising a south London tower block. Sci-fi comedy thriller, with Jodie Whittake

11.55 Film: Rec 2. (2009) Horror sequel, with Jonathan Mellor Oscar Sanchez Zafra and Manuela Velasco.

Manuela Velasco.
1.25 Film: KM 31, (2006) Horror, starring Iliana Fox. 3.10 Location, Location, Location, Location, R) 4.05 Countdown, (R) 4.30 Deal or No Deal. (R) 5.45 Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

**CHANNEL 5** 

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkchakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05

Koary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fiftiand the Flowertots. (R) 6.25 Bubble Guppies. 6.35 The bir Men Show. (R) 6.50 Chloe's Closet. 7.00

Milkshakel Monkey. (R) 7.05

Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.10

Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.40 City of Friends. (R) 7.50 Bert and Ermie's Great Adventures. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Princess. (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Great Adventures. (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben and holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15

Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) 9.30

Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.10

Show. (R) 10.15 Power Rangers Samural. (R) 10.50 misdle hollywood. (R) 10.55 Pig. Show. (R) 10.15 Power Rangers Samural. (R) 11.50 Bis Bott's. Rylans's L2.55

Film: Carl (Chity Bang Bang. (1968) 3.45 Film: An American Tail. (1986) 3.45 Film: An American Tail. (1986) 5.15 Film: Charlie's Angels. (2000) Action adventure, starring Drew Barrymore.

7.00 Cricket: The Ashes. England v Australia.

v Australia.

8.00 Once Upon a Time. Emma,
Mr Gold and Henry find
Baelfire in Manhattan.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights.

9.00 big britine; Daily Journal, 10.00 in philiptick Dangerous. (2008) Action thriller remake, with Nicolas Cage. 12.05 Film: Today You Die. (2005) Action thriller, starring Steven Seagal. 1.45 SuperCasino. 3.55 Mick's Quest. (R) 4.20 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarn. (R) 5.40 Seages Seages Carlotte Carlotte

**DIGITAL** 

7.00 UEFA Women's Euro 2013 9.30 The Killers @ T. Tonight's headline performance by the Las Vegas-based rockers. 11.00 David Guetta and Labrinth @ T

Guetta and Laument & 1

BBC Four

7.00 Frost on Interviews 8.00 The Review Show 9.00 London: A Tale of Two Cities with Dan Cruickshanl 10.00 Grand Prix: The Killer Years 11.00 When Albums Ruled the

ITV2
2.10 Film: Happy Feet (2006) 4.10
Film: Star Wars: Episode V – The
Empire Strikes Back (1980) 6.45
Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the
Dragon Emperor (2008) 9.00 Film:
Knocked Up (2007) 11.35 Totally
Bonkers Guinness World Records

4.05 Film: Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) 5.55 Wycliffe 7.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 9.00 Film: The Portrait of a Lady (1996) 11.55 Blue Murder

ITV4

1.30 Tour de France 2013 Live.
Stage 15 from Givors to Mont
Ventoux 4.30 Police, Camera,
Action 15.00 Worlds Wildest Police
Videos 6.00 BRDC Formula
Chaptonship Highlights 7.00 Tour
de France 2013 Highlights 8.00
Mindre 9.00 Film: Universal Soldier:
Regeneration (2009) 11.00 Film:
The Killer Inside Me (2010)

E4
4.30 90210 5.25 The Mindy Project
6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.30 New
(irl 8.00 Film: Just My Luck (2006)
10.00 The Inbetweeners 11.05
Skins: Fire - Part Two
Film4
4.35 Oliver Twist (2005) 7.10 Post
Grad (2009) 9.00 Season of the
Witch (2011) 10.50 Harsh Times
(2005)

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#### **Film Choices**

Wild Hearts, Channel 5, 3,20pm

A widowed Los Angeles police detective inherits a mustang ranch in Montana. He takes over the running of the place, as well as becoming the local sheriff. Meanwhile, as he and his rebellious daughter struggle with the change in lifestyle, he also has to come to terms with his own troubled past, Drama, starring Richard Thomas and Nancy McKeon. (2006)

Mystery Woman: Game Time, Channel 5, 3.15pm mystery woman: came time, unanned 3, 3 John Amateur sleuth Samantha Kinsey manages to persuade a reclusive author to attend a book-signing event - but ends up having to solve his murder. A shady videogames designer seen near the body seems the likely culprit, but she is convinced he is innocent. Drama, starring Kellie Martin, (2005)

Dirty Pretty Things, BBC1, 11.35pm
A Nigerian illegal immigrant living in London takes a job at a hotel frequented by drug dealers. When he discovers evidence of a murder, he dares not go to the police about it, and instead embarks on a dange investigation of his own. Stephen Frears' drama, starring Audrey Tautou and Chiwetel Ejiofor. (2002)



Planet of the Apes, Channel 4, 1,05pm

A spaceship crash-lands on a mysterious planet where A spacesnip crash-rantos or a mysterious panet where humans are mute creatures who find themselves at the mercy of intelligent apes. The world's simian rulers are horrified when one of the crew reveals he can speak and plan to have him killed, but two chimpanzee scientists intervene, determined to learn from the new arrival. Sci-fi drama, starring Charlton Heston. (1968)

Arizona Raiders, Channel 4, 1.25pm

In the aftermath of the American Civil War, two In the attermath of the American Civil War, two Confederate soldiers are offered a way out of jail. Their former comrades-in-arms are now a gang of bandits terrorising Arizona, and the two prisoners are sent to infiltrate the group and bring them to justice. Western, starring Audie Murphy and Gloria Talbott. (1965)

Gladiator, ITV, 10.35pm Roman general Maximus Decimus Meridius is a casualty of a power struggle between the corrupt Emperor Commodus and the senate. Ordered to be put Emperor Commodus and the senate. Ordered to be put to death along with his family, he escapes his would-be killers and is sold into slavery, only to become a gladiator and seek revenge for the murder of his wife and child. Oscar-winning period epic, with Russell Crowe and Joaquin Phoenix. (2000)

#### Pick of the Week

# **Robin feels the baby** blues on her home turf

ark skies, brooding atmosphere, mystery and people in peril...
We could be talking about Scandinavian noir, that breed of programmes that has taken British TV by storm over the past four years, or even Channel 4's moody French import, The Returned.

But no, we're describing New Zealand's attempt to get in on the broody drama act.

Top of the Lake has been co-written and co-directed by acclaimed Kiwi film-maker Jane Campion, whose previous work includes The Piano (for which she won a Best Screenplay Oscar, as well as the Palme d'Or), The Portrait of a Lady and Bright Star

The Portrait of a Lady and Bright Star. However, there is an international feel about the production, thanks to the presence in the cast of Americans Elisabeth Moss and Holly Hunter (who's reunled with Campion here for the first time since wirning a Best Actress Academy Award for her performance in The Piano), Australians David Wenham and Thomas M Wright, and Scotsman Peter Mullan.

Fans of Mad Men may receive a

down in the lead role after becoming used to watching her as the immaculately attired secretary-turned-copywriter Peggy Olson. The actress could hardly believe her luck when the script of Top of the Lake landed in her lan

lap.

"I've always been a huge fan of Jane Campion, she does such incredible work, so many different kinds of things, but they always have her own sensibility about them," says Moss. "She is the opplitude of the actor of director so getting the challenged by her has been such an incredible part of this experience."

Moss plays Detective Robin Griffin, a child protection officer, who's recently returned to her home town to nurse her ailing mother.

When pregnant 12-year-old local girl Tui Mitcham is rescued from a frozen lake, it's Robin who's called in to take care of her case. Her investigation uncovers disturbing facts about the locals – not to mention aspects of her own life she'd rather forget.

"Robin is one of those incredible

you have a character who is strong and feminine, who has a lot to do and who has an incredible emotional journey," explains Moss.

journey," explains Moss.

"Jane understands the complexities of people, and she obviously has a gift of people, and she obviously has a gift for female characters that have those complexities, showing that they're not always right, they're not always swong, they're not always beautiful—they're often ugly, they're not always strong but they're incredibly powerful. So for me it's sort of a dream role and it's very different from anything I've ever done."

So, why should we tune in?

"The story becomes Robin's search for herself as she's also diving into her own past that she's been running away from," claims Moss. "It's a detective story, it's a mystery, it has all these elements about it that are sort of tried and true.

"But what makes it different is it's got the Jane Campion touch. So everything is just a lot darker, a lot stranger, a lot more complicated than



You've sold it to us Elisabeth – bring Elisabeth Moss (centre) stars in Top of the Lake, Saturday, BBC2, 9.10pm

#### Best of the Rest

#### MONDAY

Channel 5. 8pm

Boys may love their toys, but who said gadgets have to be just for blokes? Rachel Riley seems have a fine time working on this series, as she proves in assorted reports featuring Jason Bradbury, They investigate problems surrounding connecting to wi-fi; they also look at the latest counters, and build life-size remote-piloted superheroes modelled on themselves. Meanwhile, ex-Olympic triple jump champion Jonathan Edwards tests cycling computers, and globe-trotting eporter Pollyanna Woodward is off to Hungary where she tries out a one-third scale radio-controlled car. Plus, TGS veteran Jon Bentley will be trying out a range of tablet computers.

Channel 4, 10pm

Nobody does misery quite like Olivia Colman. She's suffered wonderfully in Broadchurch and Tyrannosaur, but it's her episode of Accused, for which she won a Best Actress Bafta earlier this year, that will spring to mind while watching this new drama. Both feature Colman as a mother living on a bleak inner-city estate, and both have her facing issues involving her children. This time. Colman plays Carol, a tough single mother who Contain plays cault, a lought single mouter who is struggling to hold her Brixton-based family together. Her depressing situation deteriorates even further when her teenage sons commit a random act of violence that results in the death of a stranger. But just how far will she go to keep her

#### TUESDAY BBC1. 9pm

The penultimate offering centres on the murder of two young hoodies shot at close range in what looks like a gangland crime, and another man who dies shortly after. The deceased all had criminal records, so it looks like a new killer with a personal vendetta against all past offenders is on the loose, and only one man can stop him. The trouble is, Luther (Idris Elba) struggles to control the increased public attention when the killer posts a video of himself online, calling for changes to the public justice system. The psychopath is on a mission and he's bound to strike again, but with so many possible victims, who will he target next?

#### WEDNESDAY

The Apprentice: The Final BBC1, 8pm It's nine years since this show's first run, and over

the years we've seen Tim Campbell, Michelle Dewberry, Simon Ambrose, Lee McQueen, Yasmina Siadatan, Stella English, Tom Pellereau and Ricky Martin (not that one) hear those magic words "You're hired". Leah Totton, Jordan Poulton, Myles Mordaunt and Luisa Zissman, among others, have been great entertainment value this year. Who will manage to impress Lord Sugar and his team of advisers one final time this

but there is one way to find out. As ever, Nick Hewer and Karren Brady will be presiding over the drama as the final challenge is executed.

#### Maxine Peake: Performance, Protest and

BBC2, 10pm

At 38 years old, Maxine Peake has a sparkling CV that many actors twice her age would be envious of So it's little wonder that with Manchester's International Festival now in its final week, the Beeb has decided to focus its attention on the gifted actress, who took on a huge role within it

The festival has showcased a collection of world-class talent, theatrical premieres and ground breaking musical performances - and among them was Ms Peake performing in Shelley's The Masque of Anarchy. Miranda Sawyer meets up with Maxine to discuss the poem.

#### THURSDAY Live Golf: The Open Championship BBC2 9am

The world's finest golfers congregate at Muirfield in Gullane, East Lothian, for the opening day of what is one of the events on the

sport's calendar. Last year's tournament threw up its fair share of drama as Australian Adam Scott saw his form collapse at the end of the final round, allowing South African veteran Ernie Els to creep up the leaderboard and deny him his first Major title by a single stroke. Scott has since got that monkey off his back by tasting glory at this year's Masters, but Els will be feeling confident of retaining his trophy having won The Open on this course back in 2002.

#### The Briefs

ITV, 9pm

This intriguing series returns with another twoparter to give us an insight into British justice from the perspective of the defence. First up at Tuckers Solicitors in Manchester, we meet serial offender Kyle, accused of taking part in a violent street brawl, and of a house burglary - but he's no stranger to the legal advisors at the firm, in fact, stanger to the legal advisors at the limit, in act, they're representing him for the 34th time. Meanwhile, Alex faces a charge of causing criminal damage by scratching a car, a break from the norm for him, as he usually robs businesses.

#### FRIDAY Coronation Street

ITV. 7.30pm

Did you know?

Rob and Tracy going into business together could be a recipe for disaster. After all, they're both ex cons, which is fine if they've learned their lessons, but given the recent silk theft from Underworld it seems they haven't, Little wonder Carla and Michelle are amazed by the news, and Peter should also worry because when Rob places £500 on an accumulator, he stands to lose around £35,000.

**MNA** Media





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Sudoku

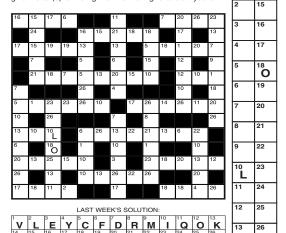
#### Puzzler

# **Brain Gym**

No.229

#### Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



J A P N W S G B X Z U H

Make sitting & rising

#### **Double Crossword**

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

#### **Cryptic Clues:**

#### Across

- 6. Direct way for joining the buzzer to a telephone connection (3-4)
- 7 & 22Ac. Woolgatherer (5-7)
- 9. Luggage carried
- by elephant (5) 10. Boarding-house that provides for one who has retired (7)
- 12. Supplying more men to check coercion (11)
- 14. The writer is about to restrict the powers that be (11) 18. Not in agreement
- with anti-gas disturbance (7) 19. Describing the sort of discipline that comes from a
- master nowadays? (5) 21. Broadcaster (5)
- 22. See 7 Across

#### Down

- 1. See 3 Down 2. A member of the fair sex (6)
- 3 & 1Dn. The insect tolerates the aardvarks (3-5)
- 4. Singular version of natural science that provides a remedy (6)
- 5. Tell what happens at a close election (7)
  8. Arranges expatria-
- tion of French near the dock areas (7)

  11. Dismantle? (7)
- 13. The lad is about to encourage the operator (7)
- 15 Welcomed and provided with a cold shower? (6)
- 16. Additional changes for special editions (6)
- 17. Had an irritating effect - brought before the court
- 20. Pitch reserved (3)

#### **Quick Clues:**

#### Across

- 6. Propriety (7)
- 7. Rush out suddenly (5)
- 9. Call for (5)
- 10. Refined (7)
- 12. Mix together (11)
- 14. Intelligence (11)
- 18. Flagrant (7)
- 19. Perfect (5)
- 21. Concur (5)
- 22. Qualified (7)

#### Down

- 1. Answer (5)
- 2. Idea (6)
- 4. Slang (6)
- 5. Expressionlessly (7)
- 8. A region's weather (7)
- 11. Abundant (7)
- 13. Likeness in certain re-
- spects (7) 15. Vent (6)
- 16. Severe trial (6) 17 Match (5)
- 20. Pale (3)



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Reductions; 7 Ionic; 8 Lighten; 10 Sweeping; 11 Fort; 13 Casket; 15 Ticker; 17 Iran; 18 Optional; 21 Notable; 22 Irons; 23 Pestilence. Down: 1 Range; 2 Decipher; 23 Pestillence. Down: 1 Range; 2 Decipher; 3 Colony; 4 Iago; 5 Network; 6 Dissection; 9 Network; 6 Dissection; 9 Network; 6 Dissection; 9 Network; 6 Dissection; 9 Network; 6 Dissection; 10 Network; 6 Dissection; 10 Network; 10 Network Prison; 19 Exact; 20 Deep

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# 

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

# **Recently refurbished two-bed** home with garage and garden



The house in Lombardy Gardens is on the market for offers around £120,000

A RECENTLY refurbished two bedroom

A RECENTLY refurbished two bedroom semi-detached house on the sought-after Woodlands development in Willenhall is on the market priced at £120,000.

The property in Lombardy Gardens benefits from a detached garage, driveway and front and rear gardens with accommodation briefly comprising of two bedrooms, lounge, kitchen diner and bathroom.

On the ground floor the lounge, 14ft 4in by 13ft 7in, has a gas fireplace with marble effect hearth while the kitchen diner measuring 14ft 4in by 8ft 10in has wall and base

cupboards, roll top work surfaces, sink drainer with mixer tap, pantry cupboard, plumbing for washing machine, space for fridge freezer and space for cooker with extractor fan over.

extractor fan over.

On the first floor are two bedrooms with a bathroom with panel bath with shower over, WC and wash hand basin.

Outside to the front is a driveway to a detached garage and lawned garden, and to the rear a lawn with patio area.

Call Dixons on 01902 634497 for more details.





# Retained features at a restored Victorian semi

Victorian semi-detached house which has been delightfully appointed by the present owners and maintains many of its

maintains many of its original features.

The property in Lichfield Road, Bloxwich, is within a short distance of the town centre with recreation facilities of King George playing fields and Bloxwich Golf Club also close by.

On the ground floor the enclosed porch has a Minton tiled floor, as does the entrance hall, while the lounge – 13ft 9in by 11ft 8in – has a feature brick fireplace with quarry tiled hearth and fitted gas fire.

The sitting/dining room, 11ft 9in by 12ft 5in, has a feature pine fireplace with cast iron

9m by 12tt bin, has a feature pine fireplace with cast iron open grate and tiled hearth and there is also a butler's pantry and refitted kitchen measuring 18th by 9ft 10in and with an inset sink with limestone drainer, range of units, limestone work

RASER WOOD

Midland

Properties

INTERNAL viewing is surfaces, central island, display recommended at this cabinets, gas fired range cooker

surfaces, central island, display cabinets, gas fired range cooker with six gas rings, two electric ovens and grill.

There is also a WC and utility area with stainless steel sink drainer with mixer tap, base and wall units and plumbing for automatic washing machine.

On the first floor the master

On the first floor the master bedroom has an en suite with pearoom has an en suite with shower cubicle, vanity unit and WC and there are two more bed-rooms and a bathroom with pan-elled bath with shower attachment over, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

#### Parking

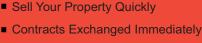
Outside to the front the house is set back from the road behind a wall with off street parking for a number of cars, with the rear garden having paved patio area, raised flower beds, further patio area with timber shed, lawn, mature trees and shrubs.

Offers in the region of £234,950 are invited for this

property.
Call Edwards Moore on 01922



The semi in Lichfield Road, is on the market with agent Edwards Moore



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Two Bedroom Extended Detached Bungalow With Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Spacious Inner Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Extended Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom And Sunroom D/Glazing And C/Heating. Off Road Parking And Detached Garage At The Rear.



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Spacious Kitchen Diner,
Two Double Bedrooms,
Both With En-Suite,
D/Glazing, C/Heating Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden

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PINFOLD ST, DARASTON

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COLTHAM RD, SHORT HEATH ully Refurbished Two Bed Mid erraced Property Having Lounge, pacious Fitted Kitchen, Separate tility, Ground Floor W.C, Two ouble Bedrooms, Family athroom, UPVC D/Glazing & Gas /Heating. GREAT FTB

£92,500



CONSORT DRIVE, DARLASTON

£92,500



GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL

edrooms, D/Glazing, C/Heating, rivate Rear Garden. MUST VIEW.

£92,500



DIBBLE CLOSE, WILLENHALL

lell Presented Three Bed Mid own House Having Entrance Hall ounge, Modern Kitchen Diner, Lounge, Modern Kitchen Diner, Family Bathroom, Separate W.C, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Parking To The Rear. Ideal FTB Or Buy To Let.

£94,500



DIBBLE CL, WILLENHALL

cious Kitchen, Lounge atory, Three Bedrooms, W.C, Modern Family n, D/Glazing, C/Heating

£95,000



BLOXWICH RD, LEAMORE

£99,995



LEVEN DR. COPPICE FARM

£109,995



PINFOLD ST EXTENSION, DARLASTON torian Two Bed Semi Having trance Hallway, Lounge, Refitted chen/Diner, Ground Floor W.C., to Double Bedrooms, Modern

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ST CHADS ROAD, BILSTON

tended Two Bed Detached Ingalow, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Ing/Utility Area, Wet Room, Heating, Majority D/Glazing, Off and Parking, Front And Rear Inclens. Ideal Investment. NO CHAIN.

£112,500



fell Presented Three Bed Traditic emi Having Entrance Hallway, ounge, Fitted Kitchen Diner/Sitti oom, Family Bathroom, Part ouble Glazing, Central Heating, arage And Off Road Parking. way, er/Sitting Parking. NO CHAIN



Semi Having Lounge, Stylish Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And Landscaped Garden. MUST VIEW.



etached Bungalow Having ntrance Hallway, Lounge, Mode itted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, ouble Glazing, Gas Central eating, Detached Garage And £124,995

ALBION RD, W-HALL

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SANDRINGHAM AVE. WILLENHALL

ANDRINGHAM AVE, WILLENHALI Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hallway, Through ounge/Diner, Extended Fitted kitchen, Refitted Family Bathroom, J/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway.



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WILLENHALL SIREEF, DARLASTON Well Presented Four Bedroom Extended Semi, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Utility Area, W.C, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway, Garage.

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PERTH RD, THE HAYES





SWEET BRIAR LANE, WILLENHALL

JAMES STREET, WILLENHALL

Four Bed Detached Property Having Lounge, Modern Kitchen Diner, Groundfloor W.C., Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Tandem Garage, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Sought After Location

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ESSINGTON RD. ESSINGTON

£189,995



uperb Three Bedroom Detached ormer Bungalow Comprising Of pacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, onservatory, Ground Floor Showe oom, Family Bathroom With acuzzi Bath C/Heating, D/Glazing, ear Garden, Garage & Driveway.

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DARVEL RD, WILLENHALL

ed Having Entrance Porch, y, Two Reception Rooms, Stylish

LINGTON PLACE, WILLENHALL d Mid Terrace Property sing Of Two Reception , Fitted Kitchen ,Two Bedrooms, Family

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HUNTINGTON RD, NEW INVENTION A Iwo bedroom Mid Ierraced Property Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Through Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom With Shower, Covered Side Entry/Utility Area, D/Glazing, Electric Heating, Front & Rea Gardens And Brick Built Outbuildings.

£450 PCM



MANOR FARM DRIVE, WILLENHALL

TEMPLE RD, WILLENHALL hree Bed Mid Terraced House Having Two Reception Rooms, arge Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor V.C, Three Double Bedrooms, Family Rathroom, LIPVC Double £525 PCM



SOMERFORD CL, CHESLYN HAY

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ve Bed Semi Detached Having bunge, Spacious Kitchen, Dining oom, Family Bathroom, Separate

Hower Room, D/Glazing, Heating, Integral Garage, Front Rear Gardens. Cul-De-Sac

SHEPHERD DR, WILLENHALL resented Two Bed Mid-Terre Property Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Through Lounge, Fitted Kitch Enclosed Side Entrance Hallway, 1 Double Bedrooms, Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating A Enclosed Rear Garrico closed Side Entrance Hallway, Two suble Bedrooms, Modern Family throom, D/Glazing, C/Heating And closed Bear Garden £500 PCM



BULL STREET, DARLASTON Well Presented Three Bed Mid Terrace Property Comprising Of Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms, Double Bedroom To The Loft Space, D/Glazing C/Heating And Good Sized Rear Garden.

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DORSET ROAD, WEDNESBURY

nree Bed Mid Townhouse comprising Of Entrance Porch, nner Hallway, Lounge, Modern itchen Diner,Three Bedrooms, nily Shower Room, Part Blazing, C/Heating, Off Road king And A Good Sized Rear £500 PCM

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   Grange & Direwoy Front & Rear Gardens
   Gard Cartral Heating Double Glazing ENERGY RATING D
  - £220,000



- modern detached
  3 bedrooms En-suite & Bathroom
  Lounge & Dining room Kitchen
  Conservatory Gas (H
  - ge & Dining room Kitchen ervatory Gas CH ae. Drive Gardens Double Glaz Energy 'C
    - £199,950



- Presented Detached Residence on Sought Al 2ft Re-Fitted Dining Kitchen ENERGY RATI Inns Master with En-Suite Re-Fitted Fam

£180,000



COPPICE FARM

- nd Impeccably Presented Modern Detached h Fireplace Superb Re-Fitted Dining Kitche Re-Fitted Family Bathroom FNFRGY RAT
  - £170,000



£159,950



£150,000



£139,950



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i Detached • Energy Rating "E

itted Breakfast Kitchen
• Bathroom



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NEW INVENTION





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#### SHORT HEATH POOLES LANE

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Follyhouse Lane

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- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker Downstairs bathroom with showe
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
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Jesson Court

**NEW** 

A 2 bed ground floor apartment
1 spacious living room
Brand new fitted kitchen with cooker
Family bathroom with electric shower

£375 pcm

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- £450 pcm **NEW Highgate Avenue**



- A Stylish 1st floor apartmen
   Modern fitted kitchen/Utility
- A Stylish 1st floor aparument
  Modern fitted kitchen/Utility
  Spacious lounge area
  Luxury bathroom with separate V
  3 Double bedrooms
  GCH Throughout EPC rating D Spacious lounge area
  Luxury bathroom with separate WC
  3 Double bedrooms



£450 pcm



**Cannon Street** 

- Anodern fitted kitchen with cooker
   Upstairs bathroom with shower cubicle
   Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
   DSS accepted EPC rating E



A re-decorated 2 bed mid terrace

- 2 spacious reception room
   Modern fitted kitchen
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   Downstairs family bathroom
   Downstairs family bathroom Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
   DSS accepted

# £375 pcm **NEW**

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- A 1 bed 1st floor apartment spacious reception room
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   DSS accepted EPC rating D

£525 pcm

- **Parker Street**  A re-furbished 1 bed 1st floor apartme 1 spacious reception room
  - Modern fitted kitchen Good size family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
   DSS accepted EPC rating G

£500 pcm



A well maintained 1 bedro

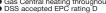
- A superb reception area
- Spacious modern fitted kitchen Pleasant family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
   Rear garden, Dss Accepted



- A 2nd floor apartment
   1 bedrooms divided by opening doors
- I spacious lounge Pleasant family bathroom
- Modern fitted Kitchen
- Modern littleu Niterier
   Single glazed and gas central heating



- A modernised 4 bed mid terrace
- Through lounge and rear reception
   Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
   Downstairs family bathroom



Gas Central heating throughout
 DSS accepted EPC rating D



**Loriners Grove** 

- 1 spacious reception room
   Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
   Pleasant family bathroom
   Master En-Suite shower room
   Secured allocated parking EPC rating B



**Booth Road** 

- 1 spacious reception room
   Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
   Upstairs family bathroom
   Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
   Conservatory EPC rating D

#### **Broadstone Avenue**

- A good size reception room
   New fitted kitchen with cooker/hob
   A pleasant bathroom with shower
   Gas central heating and Double glazing
   Dss accepted, EPC rating C



#### **Beacon Street**



**Darlaston Road** 

- An excellent 3 bed end terrace
  A spacious lounge
  Large modern ktichen diner with cooke
  Gas central heating and Double glazin
  Shared garden, comes part furnished
  EPC rating E



#### **Dora Street**

- A traditional 3 bed mid terrace property
   2 spacious reception rooms
   Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
   Downstairs family bathroom
   Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
   DSS accepted

**Redhouse Street** 

 Downstairs family bathroom with sho
 Gas Central Heating and Double Gla Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
 DSS accepted EPC rating C

£450 pcm



£400 pcm

- Gas Central H
   DSS accepted
   EPC rating D Gas Central Heating and Double Glazin
  DSS accepted rent in arrears for HB

**Bradford Street** 

Finda Property.com

A re-decorated 2 bed 1st floor apa
1 spacious living room
Modern fitted kitchen with cooke
Family bathroom with shower ove
Gas Central Heating throughout
DSS accepted EPC rating D

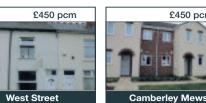


#### **Terret Close**

- Pleasant family bathroom Master En-Suite shower room

EPC rating C

**West Street** 



- A fully refurbished 2bed mid terrace
  2 Spacious reception rooms
  A good size modern fitted kitchen
  Gas central heating and Double glazing
  Enclosed rear garden and Dss accepted
  FPC rating F



# EPC rating E £395 pcm



**Hereford Street** 

£400 pcm



1 Bed first floor apartment
Town centre location
Spacious lounge
Modern fitted kitchen

Modern bathroom
 Dss accepted EPC rating C

# Nodern kitchen with megral Pleasant family bathroom Gas Central Heating and Dou Parking space EPC rating B £325pcm



ating and Double Glazing



**Waterfront Way** 

A modern 2 bed ground floor apart
1 Spacious reception room
Modern fitted kitchen with cooker

Family hathroom with sho

Double Glazing through



# £300 pcm

#### Church Street, Darlaston

A splendid 2nd floor studio apartme
 Spacious living area
 Modern fitted kitchen with applianc
 Gas central heating throughout
 Fully re-furbished, DSS accpeted
 Sporting C.

t: 01922 723 743





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# Estate House, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1DA 0121 289 3838



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#### **Forest Avenue** Walsall





This traditionally styled semi detached property is in need of some improvement, whilst at the same time offering an ideal opportunity for a first time buyer or investor. Spacious well planned living accommodation investor. Spacious well planned living accommodation comprises: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Extended Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate W.C., Garage, Fore and Rear Gardens. EPC Rating E

**GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £80,000** 

**Butts Road** 



A spacious gas centrally heated first floor flat above shops in this convenient location in need of refurbishment. The property comprises: Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate W.C. EPC Rating D

**GUIDE PRICE £35,000 - £40,000** 

#### Birchills Street Walsall





Detached building extended at ground floor level to both sides, currently separated as Four units but both sides, currently separated as Four units but lending itself to variable uses subject to necessary Planning Consent. Unit 1 - 3 Rooms and a Shower Room. Unit 2 - Room plus additional space, Shower Room, Door to Rear Lobby, Additional Room. First Floor Unit - Room opening into Room, Shower Room. Unit 4 - Room and W.C.

**GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £70,000** 

#### Burnside Gardens Walsall



This mid terraced residence is opportunity for a first time buyer or investor. The well nlanned accommodation which is part double glazed comprises of the following:Reception Hall, Guest W.C., Lounge, Kitchen, Rear Verandah, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore and Rear Gardens & Garage in separate block. EPC Rating D

Guide Price £100,000 - £120,000

#### Hill Street Hednesford



Traditionally styled extended gas centrally heated and double glazed semi detached property ideal for a first time buyer or an investor. Internal viewing is recommended to appreciate the well planned and presented living accommodation as follows Reception Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility/Playroom Showe Room, Three Bedrooms, Fore & Rear Gardens, Brick Workshop. EPC Rating E

#### Hazel Avenue **Evesham**



A two bedroom detached bungalow in a popula itial area comprising: Entrance Hall, Sittin

and Rear Gardens, EPC Rating C

GUIDE PRICE £125,000 - £135,000

#### Castle Square Weoley Castle, Birmingham



Offering an ideal investment opportunity this Freehold semi detached property comprises an opticians practice and three bedroom house, the whole bedroom house, the whole 22,400.00 per annum.Opticians Practice: Consisting of Display Area/Reception with a frontage of 3,71m, Consulting Room, Store and Constitution of the Consti a iswo year lease to Mr Č Ábban of Hills Opticians commencing July 2012 for 5 years at a rent of E1400.00 per calendar month. Benefitting from double glazing and central heating and comprising. Ground Floor: Reception Halin Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate W.C., Yard and Garage, Currently let on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy at £550.00 per calendar month.

Guide Price £200,000 - £230,000

#### **Lysways Street**



Situated in a popular residential location close to Walsall Town Centre this ground floor flat offers gas Walsall Town Centre this ground floor flat offers gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation. The current vendor is prepared to stay on as a tenant and sign a 6 month Assured Shorthold Contract at a rental of £425.00 PCM. The accommodation comprises: Communal Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom. EPC Rating D

**GUIDE PRICE £40,000 - £45,000** 



**GUIDE PRICE £85.000 - £95.000** 

### Sun Street Walsall



unique opportunity to purchase a three storey detached family home set in its own private grounds, boasting full gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing.The property comprises: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, L-Shaped Bedroom, En-Suite Bathroom, Garage, Workshop, Rating E

GUIDE PRICE £130,000 - £150,000



Bosty Lane Aldridge

### Main Street Stonnall



Traditionally styled semi detached property that has undergone considerable improvement and

set on approximately third of an acre in a desirable location in the village of Stonnall. With double glazing and gas fired central heating, the property does however need further improvement but offers a unique opportunity to a discernina purchaser.The property comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Hallway, Kitchen, Utility Room, Two Bedrooms, Additional Room, Bathroom, Driveway, Fore and Rear Gardens, EPC

**GUIDE PRICE £225,000 - £250,000** 

#### Sherbourne Road Acocks Green, Birmingham



Situated close to Acocks Green Village centre and within a minute walk of the Railway Station, this imposing Victorian semi detached residence is in need of full modernisation. Lending itself to a number of uses for owner occupation or conversion, subject to Planning Approval, the property comprises: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Llving Room, Dining Room, Lounge, Breaktast Room, Ritcher, Four First Floor Bedrooms, Box Room, Bathroom, Two Second Floor Bedrooms, For & Rear Gardens. EPP Chating of

Guide Price £130,000 - £150,000

### **Birmingham Road**



A substantial traditionally styled detached family residence with many of it's original features, offering tremendous scope for improvement and modernisation set on a good size plot with rear vehicular access to garage via private drive. The property comprises: Entrance Hall, Dining Room, Lounge, Kitchen, Rear Lobby to outbuildings, Three Bedrooms, Box Room, Bathroom, Garage, Fore & Rear Gardens. EPC Rating E

Guide Price £200,000 - £220,000



Porch leads to Heception Hall, Lounge, Dining Area, Open Plan Kitchen, Lobby, Under Statir Cupboard and Shower Room, Landing, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Raised Lawned Fore Garden, Enclosed Rear Garden, Detached Garage. GUIDE PRICE £100,000 - £120,000

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Guide Price From £750.00

















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Istead Road

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
  Through Lounge
  Kitchen Downstairs W.C.
  Family Bathroom
  Separate W.C.





rhampton Road

- Two Bedroom Terrace
   Two Reception Rooms
   Fitted Kitchen/Diner●Bathroom
   Central Heating●Part Double Glazing
   Large Rear Garden●Sorry No DHSS



- Leamore
  Eagleworks Drive
   Two Bedroom Apartment
   Fully Furnished●Lounge●Fitted Kitch
  Bedroom with Ein-Suite Shower Room
   Bathroom ⊕Da(Jazing & Gas Heating
   Sonry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers.



xwich art Street

- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
  Two Reception Rooms
  Kitchen Bathroom Separate W.C.
  Front & Rear Gardens Central Heating
  DHSS Accepted, No Pets or Smokers



Bloxwich Tintern Way

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
   Two Reception Rooms
   Kitchen Family Bathroom
   Rear Garden & Off Road Parking
   Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

£500 PCM



- Walsall
  Manorhouse Close

  Two Bed Apartment

  Lounge Fitted Kitchen Bathroo

  Double Glazing Heating

  Allocated Parking

  Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers



Waterfront Way

Two Bedroom Ap

Lounge Kitchen
Bathroom with Si

£495 PCM



- Walsall
  Lord Street

  Three Bedroom Semi Detached
  Lounge•Dining Room●Kitchen
  Family Bathroom
  Front and Rear Gardens

  DHSS ACCEPTED



- Bloxwich
  Green Lane

   Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
   Two Beception Rooms
   Brand New Kitchen®New Bathroom
   Rear Garden®OHSS Accepted
   Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing



oxwich merfield Road

Three Bedroom Terrace
Counge® Kitchen®Downstairs W.C.
Bathroom with seperate shower cubicle
Part Double GlazingGas Central Heating
Gardens®O.R.Parking®DHSS Accepted

£475 PCM



- Walsall
  West Bromwich Road

  Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
  Open Plan Lounge/Diner
  Kitchen Ground Floor Bathroom
  Gardens Cas Central Heating



- Walker Hoad
  Guild Court
  Two Bedroom Apartments
  Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
  Family Bathroom with Showe
  Gas Central Heating
  Double Glazing

From £450 PCM



£450 PCM



- t Street o Bedroom Mid-Terrace rough Lounge●Open Plan Staircase ted Kitchen●Family Bathroom S Central Heating●Majority D.Glazing ar Garden●DHSS Accepted



- watsall
  Canute Close
   Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
   Large Lounge Kitchen●Bathroom with
  Shower

Double Glazing & Electric Heating
 Communal Grounds & Allocated Off

£450 PCM



- Walsall
  Appledore Court

  Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
  C-Heating & D.Glazzing
  Parking to Rear® Through Lounge/Diner
  Kitchen® Bathroom
  Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers



- Walsali
  Lichfield Road

  Two Bedroom 2nd Floor Flat

  Entrance Hallway@Lounge
  Fittled Kltchen@Family Bathroom
  Electric Storage Heating
  Double Glazing@Sorry No DHSS, Pets or

£450 PCM



- Walsali Deermead Court
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Aparument Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen En-Suite Shower Room®Bathroom Gas Central Heating®Double Glazing Allocated Parking®Sorry No DHSS



£425 PCM



£425 PCM



From £400 PCM



- Walsall
  Bloxwich Road
  Two Bedroom Flat
  Lounge
  Kitchen
  Off Road Parking
  Gas Central Heatin
  DHSS Accepted

£400 PCM



£400 PCM



- Walsall Tudor House
- One Bedroom Apartment
  Lounge Bathroom
  Fitted kitchen with appliances

Walsali
Hillary Street
Ground Floor Two Bedroom Flat
LoungeoFitted Kitchen
Family Bathroom
DHSS Accepted

DHSS Accepted
 Council Tax Band: band A



Parker Street
One Bedroom Flats
Lounge Kitchen
Bathroom

Central Heating
 DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM

£375 PCM 11

THE RE Waisail
Thornbury Road

One & Two Bedroom Apartments
Loungo@Fitted kitchen

Bathroom@Electric Heating
Double GlaziPu
Allocated Parking@Sorry No DHSS

£375 PCM Bloxwich
Barracks Lane
One Bedroom Fla
Lounge Kitchen
Double Glazing
Flectric Heating

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- Bloxwich
  Stafford Road
   Extended Five Bedroom Detached
   Two Reception Rooms●Extended
  Brakfast Kitchen
   Laundry Room●Ground Floor Shower
  Room



- Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow
  Large Open Plan Living Area
  Kitchen®Shower Room®Front Garden
  Utility Room®Garage & Parking
  Large Rear Garden with Patio Area





- Four Bedroom Detached Bungalow
   Sitting/Dining Room●Family Room
   Fitted Kitchen●En-Suite Shower
   Family Bathroom●Rear Garden
   D.Glazing & Gas Heating●Parking



In the Region of £175,000



- Well Presented Semi Detached Property Lounge/Diner

  Kitchen

  Bathroom

  Downstairs Bedroom & Shower Room

  Central Heating and D.Glazing

  Off Road Parking

  Rear Garden

Offers in excess of £170,000



- d Avenue
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
   Two Reception Rooms●Fitted Kit
   Ground Floor Wet Room●Family
- . s●Parking & Garage

In the Region of £164,950



- Three Bedroom Link-Detached
  Open Plan Through Lounge/Dining
  Room

£164,950



- erhampton Road
- Four Bedroom Detached
   Large Lounge⊕Breakfast Kitchen
   Dining Room⊕Rear Lobby/Utility
   Family Bathroom with Walk-IN
   Gardens●Integral Garage & Drive

Offers in excess of £155,000



- Walsall
  New Forest Road

  Three Bedroom Detached

  Lounge®Open Plan Kitchen/Diner

  Conservatory®Family Bathroom

  En-Suite Shower Room®Off Road
  Parking



- Extended Three Bedroom End-Terrace
   Large Lounge●Extended Kitchen/Diner
   Study●Family Bathroom●Conservatory
   En-Suite Shower Room
   Gardens & Off Road Parking



- Willenhall Pattenham Close

In the Region of £149,950



Offers in excess of £140,000



- Willenhall The Hayes
- Two Bed Semi-Detached Bungalow
   Large Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
   Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
   Double Glazing & Central Heating
   Front Driveway with Off Road Parkir

In the Region of £139,995



- ess Close
- Three Bedroom Link-Detached
   Lounge●Kitchen Diner
   Family Bathroom
   Front & Rear Gardens
   Garage & Driveway●NO CHAIN

Offers in excess of £135,000



- iths Flour Mill
- Two Bedroom Apartment
   Lounge●Integrated Kitchen
   Electric Heating & Double Glazing
   Family Bathroom
   Allocated Parking

Offers in excess of £125,000



Offers in excess of £120,000



Blakenall Lane

Extended Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace

Porch®Through Lounge/Dining Room

Fitted Kitchen®Shower Room

Utility®Family Bathroom®Rear Garden

Gated Off Road Parking

In the Region of £115,000



- Lichfield Road

  Two Bedroom End-Terrace

  Fitted Kitchen®Family Bathroom

  Lounge/Dining Room

  Rear Garden®Off Road Parking

  Pouble Glazing & Gas Central He



Close One Bedroom House
Fitted Kitchene Lounge
Dining/Sun Roome Double Bedroom
Bathroom with Shower Enclosed Rear Garden

Walsall
Raymond Close

Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
Lounge/Dining Room
Extended Kitchen@Family Bathroom
Separate W.C. @Garage ©priveway
Double Glazing & Gas Central Heatin

£112,500



£105,000



Beeches Road

Two Bedroom Semi-Detached

Refurbed@ounge@Kitchen/Dining Room

Conservatory@Family Bathroom

Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

Off Road Parking with Access to Rear

In the Region of £104,950



- Walsall

  Dartmouth Close

  Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace

  Lounge Dining Room●/kitcher

   Verandah/Utility●Family Bathre

  Double Glazing & Gas Central I

  → \* Rear Gardens●Rear A

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  Family Bathroom shower over bath
  Front & Rear Gardens®Central Heating
  Double Glazing including Patio Doors

Offers in excess of £90,000

100



- om Mid-Terraci
- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
  Lounge Kitchen/Diner Bathroom
  Vernadah/Utility En-Suite W.C.
  Rear Garden with Patio
  Off Road Parking for Two Cars





■ Two Bedroom End-Terrace
■ Porch●Two Reception Rooms
■ Kitchen●Extended Side Entrance/Utility
■ Family Bathroom●Large Corner Plot
Rear Garden

ter Place



. ale Court.Birmingham Road



Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
Lounge Dining Room
Kitchen Family Bathroom
Double Glazed Central Heat
Bear Garden Off Road Park

Argyll Court,Essington Road

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Fitted Kitchen
Secure Communal Entrance

In the Region of £84,950



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Newhome Way

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Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
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■ Parking●Ideal for First Time Buy
■ Double Glazing & Electric Heatin

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# Motoring

**Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters** 



# Superb set to stay ahead of the field



Call us now for a FREE quotati 53 Midland Road, Walsall WS1 3Q0

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of space, refinement and generous levels of standard equipment,

Skoda's latest generation Superb packs all the familiar qualities that's already convinced so many to sign on

the dotted line.

some welcome extra kit.
Sculptured
Although the cosmetic changes are subtle, out
has gone the slightly generic Skoda design,
replaced by a more sculptured look fore and aft.
Inside the car's cabin it is largely business as
usual. Detailed trim and material changes have
done a good job of ensuring the Superb's cabin
remains a plush environment for all occupants,
though.

though.

As before, this Superb's main selling point is its cabin space. Extended in all the right areas, front seat occupants are made to feel special while those in the rear can stretch out thanks to the those in the rear can stretch out thanks to the generous amount of legroom offered. In the influential premium saloon class, rear space is important. You may be transporting clients or paying customers – either way, the Superb's extra inches do much to create an appealing executive ambience. And that's before you consider the car's voluminous boot – seats up or down.

You won't be paying executive prices for the Superb, though. As with the previous generation car, the sums involved are modest for something of this size and opulence. And Skoda is hoping that its generosity in the equipment department will prompt buyers to place the Superb high on their shopping lists, especially as similarly priced rivals offer less space and kit for similar money.

\*\*Generous\*\*

With four modes of the form (S. S.F. Elleron).

Improvements to the Superb might not be immediately obvious, however Skoda has focused on the things that matter: cleaning up the engine range, sharpening up the car's looks to mirror that of the Rapid and latest Octavia, and adding some welcome extra kit. With four models to choose from (S, SE, Elegance and top-spec), the act of making a choice is no longer a simple one as there's a generous spread of standard kit even on the lower-spec models now.

Furthermore, this ensures the car remains competitive in the crowded company car market when value for money is a key driving force in

when value for money is a key driving force in purchasing decisions.

With alloy wheels, air conditioning, Bluetooth, electric windows and mirrors, chilled glovebox and seven airbags forming part of the Superb's core standard kit list, even the entry-level S model is hard to ignore.

SE models gain larger alloy wheels, a touch-

screen audio screen and a greater choice of audio inputs, rear parking sensors plus a host of detailed interior and exterior trim accents.

detailed interior and exterior trim accents.

The move up to Elegance sees a big uplift in specification, with xenon headlights, bigger (again) alloy wheels, touchscreen navigation, heated and powered front seats, leather upholstery and a heated windscreen.

Skoda's traditional flagship Laurent & Klement model adds front parking sensors, more

leather, heated rear seats, an upgraded audio unit, TV tuner, privacy glass and gloss black cabin trim.

Skoda's generosity also extends to its engine range, greater efficiencies should mean you pay less at the pumps and to the taxman.

Some models benefit from cuts to CO2 emissions as high as 19 per cent, while Skoda boasts that every model delivers more miles per gallon and emits less at the tailpipe.

Buyers can choose from three petrol and three diesel engines, plus manual and DSG gearboxes depending on the particular model. Unusually in this sector there's also the option of all-wheel drive on selected variants, which will no doubt add a welcome all-weather dimension to the Superb for some buyers.

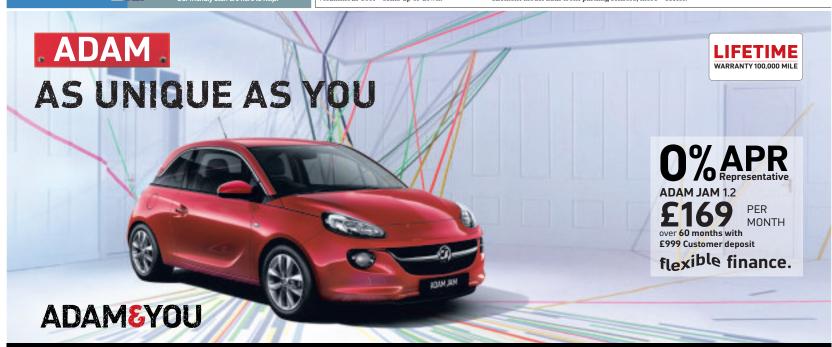
With diesel power the mainstay of the range, the choice ranges from a 1.6-litre 105 horsepower unit to a 2.0-litre unit in 140 and 170 horsepower guise.

Petrol fans can choose between 14 and 1.8-

guise.
Petrol fans can choose between 1.4 and 1.8-Petrol tans can choose between 1.4 and 1.0-litre units offering 125bp and 160hp respectively, plus a 3.6-litre V6 producing 260hp. Overall performance is, as you'd expect, biased towards refinement and comfort. The big Superb surprises with its agility yet there's no escaping the fact that it's built primarily to cosset its occunants,

pants.

The well-weighted major controls and slick actions of the minor switchgear help boost the cabin's already impressive ambience, while the smooth-shifting transmissions – both manual and DSG – cement the car's place in the premium control.



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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). ADAM Range: Urban: 38.2 (7.4) - 43.5 (6.5), Extraurban: 62.8 (4.5) - 67.3 (4.2), Combined: 51.4 (5.5) - 56.5 (5.0). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 130 - 118g/km.

# **Motoring**

# **Fuel-efficient Zafira Tourer** just the job for family hols

approaching, families in Ludlow are turning their

Ludlow are turning their attention to summer travels. However, with the cost of fuel on the rise, the thought of taking a road trip can seem a costly proposition. Fortunately, following the recent introduction of a state-of-the-art, fuel efficient turbo diesel engine to Vauxhall's family-friendly Zafira Tourer range, local Vauxhall retailer, Ludlow Motors is on hand with a model that not only offers powerful performance and superior space, but highly competitive fuel economy too.

For those planning their travels around the country this summer, the Zafira Tourer BiTurbo will come as a welcome addition to the line-up.

Available to order at the dealership on Bromfield Road, the model is powered by 2.0-litre 195PS diesel engine and achieves an impressive combined fuel economy figure of just 50.4mpg, thanks to its Start/Stop technology.

#### Unprecedented

Unprecedented
Peter Hughes, Retail Operator at
Ludlow Motors, explains: "We're
pleased to be able to offer families in
the area a fuel-efficient vehicle that is
ideal for family travel and that boasts a
spacious interior alongside unprecedented levels of flexibility.
"What's more, Vauxhall is currently
the only manufacturer to offer a
sophisticated BiTurbo engine on a
seven-seat MPV, which provides a
perfect blend of high performance,
impressive fuel economy and premium

periect blend of high performance, impressive fuel economy and premium class quality."

The introduction of the BiTurbo expands the Zafira Tourer's broad power train offer, which now comprises four diesel and two petrol engines.

The sequential twin-turbo diesel



Vauxhall's Zafira Tourer is ideal for taking the family on holiday with comfort and good fuel economy

addition to the line-up gives emissions of just 149g/km CO2, offers a maximum speed of 135mph and can achieve 0-60mph in just 8.5 seconds, making it one of the fastest diesel-powered, seven-seat MPVs on the market.

What's more, the model is ideal for pleasing a crowd thanks to

What's more, the model is ideal for pleasing a crowd, thanks to extra flexibility provided by the new generation Flex? seating system. This includes the unique 'lounge seating' functionality, which gives passengers an unprecedented amount of space in the second row. The Zafira Tourer BiTurbois priced from £27,685 comes with a choice of SE, SRi or Elite trims, as well as a range of

options including Flex Ride adap-tive chassis control system, AFL adaptive forward lighting system and a panoramic windscreen. It will also come as welcome news that the Zafira Tourer BiTurbo is also ideal for those who wish to drive away the model at a monthly payment that fits their budget, thanks to Vauxhall's inno-vative Flexible Finance scheme. With zero per cent APR Repre-

vative Flexible Finance scheme.
With zero per cent APR Representative, no minimum deposit and a payment term varying between 24 to 60 months, Flexible Finance makes it easy for motorists to buy their chosen Vauxhall vehicle at a cost that suits them.
And like all new Vauxhalls, the

Zafira Tourer BiTurbo comes with a warranty which could now last a lifetime, so customers can be confident that they are getting the best possible aftercare and service, too.

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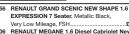
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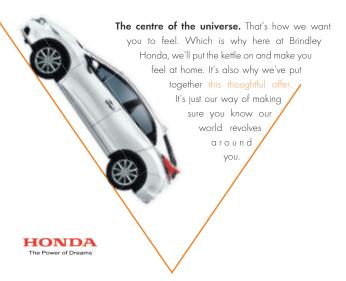
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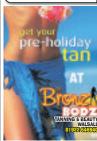
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#### personal

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#### SPORT

# Long-time football chairman dies at 71

THE chairman of Birming-ham County Football Associ-ation has died.

ation has died.
Roger Wood, aged 71, was
the leader of the BCFA for 22
years, he died on July 1.
Mr Wood, also an FA
council member, was a
hugely popular figure in the
game and his dedication to
his role of Birmingham
County FA Chairman was
second to none He leaves second to none. He leaves behind his wife Gill.

behind his wife Gill.

He was described as a real advocate of grassroots football and always looking for ways to push the game forward.

Mike Pennick, Chief Executive at BCFA said: "Roger has been the heartbeat of this County FA for 22 years and a constant source of support and guidance for us all.

all.

"He truly will be missed by everyone involved in football."

His funeral will take place on Thursday July 18 at 2.15pm at Perry Barr Crematorium, Walsall Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham, B42 2LR with a reception afterwards at the Conservative Pub, Newton Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 6BN. Flowers can be sent to the Co-operative sent to the Co-operative Funeral Directors on 606 Walsall Road, B42 1EZ.

# Open hope slips away

for golfers
A PAIR of West Midlands
golfers narrowly missed out
on reaching The Open
Championship at Muirfield.
Wolfvarhampton, veteran

Wolverhampton veteran Peter Baker and Walsall youngster Freddie Sheri-dan-Mills both came up short in final local qualify-ing at North Berwick in Scotland this week.

Scotland this week.
Former Ryder Cup vicecaptain Baker, now director
of golf at South Staffordshire Golf Club, was tied
12th in the 72-man field
with a level-par score of 142
after two rounds – six
behind winner Jimmy
Mullen.
Sheridan-Mills, aged 21,
was a shot further back in
tied 20th after storming

was a shot further back in tied 20th after storming back from a first-round 74 with a second round of 69. However, the three places in the Open went to Mullen, an amateur from North Devon, and professionals Gareth Wright and George Murray, who both finished five under par.

Sheridan-Mills had shot a three-under-par round of 69 at Little Aston Golf Club last week to finish fifth in his regional qualifying competi-

regional qualifying competition, earning him a spot in the final local qualifying.

#### Reign at top comes to end

PENN'S reign at the top of the **Dudley Building Society League** premier division for bowls was short-lived, despite victory against Victoria Park.

Victoria Park.

The 8-6 scoreline saw
Chadsmoor Progressive A
regain top spot with their
12-2 home victory over
Dudley Dell A.
Chris Grocott was the

Chris Grocott was the form player for Chadsmoor with a 21-6 victory.

Defending champions M&B Cheslyn Hay joined Chadsmoor on 113 points as they eased past Willenhall Nordley A 13-1.

Willenhall Nordley B moved out of the relegation places with an impressive 12-2 home win over fellow strugglers Cradley Sports.

# **Butler and Chambers crucial — Smith**



Dean Smith

for new players convinced he has already made his two most impor-

arready made ins two most impor-tant signings.

The Walsall boss regards the re-signing of Andy Butler and Adam Chambers as crucial to his team's well-being.

well-being.

The Saddlers were in the Caribbean for a week to continue their pre-season preparations with training and three games against Trinidad & Tobago opposition.

They are still digesting the shock of losing their three most successful front players last season – Febiul Brandy, Will Grigg and Jamie Pater-

son. But Smith is determined the setbacks will not derail the progress made last season and believes in his key central defender and anchor midfield man he has the players to head teaching your force.

bond together a new force. Smith persuaded Butler to sign a new one-year contract and Cham-bers a two-year deal and he said: "As far as I am concerned the two

course to continue its progress under Smith. He said: "It's nice to have familiar faces coming into the changing rooms rather than the six players we had at one stage last year.

Playing wise I think we are one of

a welcome dinner last week before a double training session – starting at 7.30am to dodge the heat.

Coventry City, meanwhile, have reportedly agreed a ground-sharing deal with Northampton Town for next season.

The Sky Blues, who are believed to have held talks with Walsall about playing at the Banks's Stadium, are now said to have reached an agree-ment with the Cobblers.

The temporary move to Sixfields will need to be approved by the Foot-ball League.

# Perry sees his side home in a nail-biter

Staffs Clubs Div 2: Penn 172 Rushall 175-6, Rushall win by four wickets AFTER an absolute tie the week before, Rushall were involved in another thrilling match winning with inst match, winning with just one ball to spare. Rushall invited Penn to bat and the bowlers used the

Rushall invited Penn to bat and the bowlers used the conditions well to keep the run rate down.

The introduction of the evergreen Ian Clayton (4-42) saw a mini-collapse but a fightback by Slimm (48) and Zaki saw Penn post 172.

The Rushall reply was built around an excellent 50 by Andy Clayton. Rushall found it hard to get the run rate up as Elishan conceded just 14 runs from 15 overs.

A late surge by Ian Clayton (23) and Scott Peach (20) set up the tight finish.

With Rushall requiring six runs from the last three balls, new batsman Dave Perry hit a four and a six to win with a ball to spare.

Staffs Club Div 3: Rushall 2nd XI 260 W-ton 5th XI 182-6, winning draw for Park, Rushall were unable to convert their dominance into a victory.

to convert their dominance into a victory. Rushall elected to bat and

into a victory.

Rushall elected to bat and the Wolverhampton bowlers found the conditions hard to cope with. Daz Stacy took advantage, passing his half century before 25 overs. He was looking set for a century but was run out on 83.

Shaun Allsop (33). Warren Foster (35) and a late flurry by Matt Jones (30) saw Rushall post 260.

From the start of the Wolverhampton reply, it became apparent they were looking for the draw.

A decisive bowling change by skipper Paul Hopkinson (4-31) brought the breakthrough as he took two wickets in his first over.

William Conn (45) and Mandip Mann (26) thwarted Rushall's search for victory.



Coventry Bears A 10
Birmingham Bulldogs 88
BIRMINGHAM Bulldogs Rugby League FC registered their third win on the trot against a game but youthful Coventry Bears "A" side.
Despite an early slip-up as Coventry loose forward Conor Slater went over, Bulldogs dominated and ran in 16 tries.
First-half scores came

in 16 tries.
First-half scores came from Jermaine Bernard, Nic Evans, Curtis Harris and Andrew Burton with Sam Shepherd adding to each.
Winger Joe Williams went over in the corner, followed by Dan Ventrella. Second touchdowns for Bernard and

touchdowns for Bernard and Williams were followed by a

Williams were followed by a try from Adam Bromley, Shepherd adding four more goals to give Birmingham 52-4 half-time lead.

In the second half a slick assist from Baldock put Adam Walker over on the right. Skipper Matt Dudley weighed in with a brace, the first goaled by Shepherd who also added to a second try for Ventrella.

Soon after, Burton crossed

Soon after, Burton crossed for his second touchdown.

for his second touchdown.

Coventry never gave up and Slater went over for his second score, full back George Rae adding the goal.

In the final minutes Brum

posted two more scores with a try for Matt Beattie, goaled by Shephard plus a second for Walker as Bulldogs enhanced their play-off

biggest signings we needed to make were always going to be Andy Butler and Adam Chambers. "They are two fantastic profes-

sionais who the other lads look to for inspiration and leadership. Their professionalism is second to none and their presence in the dressing room meant they were always the most important ones for me to sign." Butler insisted the club is on

"Playing wise I think we are one of the best football teams in the league and that is thank to the gaffer and Richard O'Kelly who want to play football."

Leaders survive late scare in bumper night

# Wolves players told to fasten their seat belts

WOLVES have been warned to fasten their seatbelts and be ready for a high-tempo game under Kenny Jackett.

Ex-Watford right-back Darren Bazeley is the most notable former Wolves player to have had a taste of the new Molineux head coach's methods.

Now 40 and football development manager for the New Zealand Football Federation as well as being head coach for the Kiwis' Under-17s World Cup campaign, Bazeley came

through the ranks at Vicarage Road as Jackett's playing career ended through injury in 1990.



**Darren Bazeley** 

As coach and player respectively under Graham Taylor, the pair won back-to-back promotions as Watford climbed back to the top flight in the late 1990s before Bazeley joined Wolves

before Bazeley joined Wolves after 239 appearances for the Hornets.

Bazeley, who played 80 times for Wolves in three years before a spell at Walsall, believes fans and players alike will respond to Jackett's style of play.

"Kenny liked his teams to play good, positive football, but also worked the players hard, creating a very fit team," said Bazeley.

"Players will love working with Kenny and I'm sure he will create a hard-working, positive, high-tempo team that the Wolves fans will enjoy supporting. enjoy supporting.

#### Wolves

"I met Kenny when I was 16 at Watford; he was the youth-team coach at the time.
"He quickly moved from

the youth team into the reserves then on to the first

reserves then on to the first team, where he worked under Graham Taylor as assistant before taking over. "For me, Kenny was a great coach – he was hard but fair and knew how to inspire and get the best out of his players, while main-taining a great team atmos-phere.

"He demanded high stan-dards, dedication, determi-nation, and professionalism on and off the pitch."

#### Determination

Jackett's determination introduce a new era at to introduce a new era at Molineux was shown when he transfer-listed four players on the first day of pre-season training.

pre-season training.
Bazeley revealed the former Millwall and Swansea boss can handle the dressing room 'big hitters'.
"He has a strong character and will definitely be able to deal with high-profile players," he added.

Having worked with

players," he added.
Having worked with
Jackett and played for
Wolves, Bazeley believes the
two are an ideal fit. He said,
when I heard Kenny had
resigned from Millwall I said
he would be perfect to take
over at Wolves.

Back on track - Tai Woffinden, left leads Darcy Ward into a bend. Picture John Hipkiss Photography

LEAGUE leaders Wolverhampton survived a last heat scare to secure all

survived a last heat scare to secure all three points with a hard-fought 49-42 win over Poole.

Both injury-ravaged sides put on a good show for a bumper Monmore crowd on Monday night and the Pirates pulled back from a seemingly hopeless position to give themselves a chance of a consolation point.

The meeting featured everything from a five-lap heat to races with only two finishers.

But after 14 heats Wolves required

two finishers.

But after 14 heats, Wolves required a magnificent heat 15 ride from guesting No.1 Chris Harris and Tai Woffinden to secure maximum points following a resilient Poole fightback. Despite holding a 17- point lead after 10 outings, Wolves let their com-

fortable advantage slip to set up a

fortable advances or nervy finale.

Needing a 3-3 in the final race,
Woffinden cleverly slowed the race
down from second place to allow
contact Harris to pass Martin

partner Harris to pass Martin Smolinski for the third place the Spearheaded

The race capped off an excellent evening for both Harris and the returning Woffinden as the duo spearheaded the side in the absence of skipper Fredrik Lindgren.

Birmingham man Harris stepped in admirably for the Swedish star, bagging three race wins in his opening three rides and being the only man to lower the colours of GP

sensation Darcy Ward. Woffinden also put in a classy display to make paid double figures - fighting through the pain barrier in the closing stages having aggravated his collarbone injury when shoved wide in his third outling.

outing.

Adam Skornicki again impressed Adam Skornicki again impressed as third heat-leader, recording two race wins and fighting his way to a crucial second place in the penultimate race of the night with a determined effort.

Wolves 49: Chris Harris 11+2, Adam Skornicki 9+1, Tai Woffinden 8+2, Jacob horssell 7-2, Ludvig Lindgren 7+1, Ricky Wells 7, Ty Proctor R/R.

Poole 42: Darcy Ward 17, Rohan Tungate 14+2, Martin Smölinski 5+1, Micky Dyer 4, Maciej Janowski 2, Josh Grajczonek 0, Thomas H. Jonasson R/R.

# Paddock scores points victory in latest bout

BLOXWICH boxer Luke Paddock scored a points victory over Paul Haines in his latest bout at the Civic Hall, Wolverhampton. Paddock fights from Paul Gough's gym in Dudley, the home of Priory Park Amateur Boxing Club, and he experienced his best night as a pro-

Boxing Club, and he experienced his best night as a pro.
He opened the bill with a light welterweight four-rounder, officiated by Wolverhampton's Gareth Morris.
The 21-year-old skipped around Haines and picked punches in one-shot attacks but his adversary answered back with a right hand of his own, although Paddock retained accuracy to the final bell and took the decision 40-37 in a pleasing night.
Meanwhile Dudley's Ryan Aston was the boss of fight night to with a rib injury at the start of the fourth round. Harry Matthews'

movement had been impaired by a crunching body shot and, with his left eye also marked, punishment for the other six sched-

uled rounds seemed futile.

It brought to an end Aston's best performance in the pro ranks to date in his 12th paid

contest.

He left the Civic on Saturday night with
the British Masters super middleweight belt
around his waist.

Realm The match was made outside of the 22-year-old's usual realm of middleweight as Matthews had stepped in at just over a couple of days notice but it was, nonetheless, an impressive result.

The never-stopped 'Pocklington Rocket,' a former Central Area champion and English title challenger, certainly didn't

bully Aston as he would have liked. Aston bounced out of the corner from the opening bell and soon connected with two right

bell and soon to hooks.

The right hook was his primary weapon, but he bamboozled Matthews back into the corner with a big left in the second.

Matthews kept on coming forward in the third right up until he was hurt by a loaded right hook to the ribcage that nearly took him off his feet and signalled the beginning of the end.

him off his feet and signalled the beginning of the end.

There was much deliberation at the end of the round as Matthews considered boxing on with trainer Glenn Banks making the call to retire to the referee, Dudley's Shaun Messer, one second into the fourth.

What was supposed to be a five-fight undercard turned into four contests with Swadlincote's Craig Wilshee left dismayed

# after a no-show from his opponent, Worthing's James Child. The reasons given was that Childs was on board a train from London to Birmingham that had struck someone on the tracks, forcing a long delay that saw the bout cancelled. Mother

Mother

Tipton's Ricky Summers was pleased to be in action on the under-card after months out of the ring due to the passing of his mother, Shirley, who lost her battle with leukaemia in March.

Summers, usually a light heavy, had to lose nearly a stone-and-a-half. Derby puncher Elvis Dube wasn't the easiest introduction back into pro life for the former senior ABA national semi-finalist.

Summers kept his head moving to record a shut-out points victory by 40-36.

Scarey ride
League leaders
hold on for win
Page 39



**Crucial time** for new players



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# Timmins' delight at back-up support

PELSALL Villa boss, Craig Timmins says he is delighted with the backroom team he has assembled at The Bush as he prepares for his first season at the helm.

as he prepares for his first season at the helm.

The 27 year-old is one of the youngest managers in the country but can tap into a wealth of experience. His right-hand man is Keith Russell who has played league football with Blackpool and was part of Hednesford Town's epic FA Cup adventure at the end of the 1990s as The Pitmen were one of the top non-league sides in the country. Veteran Ian Cooper, who works for the FA, has a coach mentor role, using the knowledge gained from a career in the game that has seen him serve the likes of Albion, where he was academy manager for 12 years, and Aston Villa.

The team is backed up by goalkeeping coach, Lee Bailey, Chief Scout, Jon Timmins, and Development Manager, Mark Bentley.

"You couldn't get a better backroom staffat this level," insisted Timmins." There is so much experience and desire and already they have

insisted Timmins. "There is so much experience and desire and already they have proved invaluable to me as we have started pre-season in a very positive manner. "These people are going to be key in helping us move on to the next level and I know that they are right behind me with everyone pulling in the same direction."

### **Be cautious** says Smith

HEDNESFORD Town boss Rob Smith insists consolidation is the aim for his newly-promoted side as they prepare for the Conference North – as hotshot Elliott

North – as hotshot Elliott Durrell prepares to commit his future to Keys Park. The Pitmen aim to main-tain the momentum that saw them win the Evo-Stik Northern Premier play-offs, the Staffordshire Senior Cup and the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Senior Cup.
But Smith sounded a note of caution. He said: "The main aim this season is to just establish ourselves in the league."

the league."

The Pitmen have a busy first week, starting at Stalybridge Celtic on Saturday, August 17, before home games against Leamington on the Tuesday and Oxford City the following Saturday.

Smith knows the step up will be tricky, but is looking forward to it.

"It was always going to be difficult," he said.

# Jackett wants his team as fit as possible

WOLVES have made the journey to Andy Murray country – and the players already have a feeling for the punishing ritual the new Wimbledon champion has endured,

have a feeling for the punishing ritual the new Wimbledon champion has endured, such as yoga.

Kenny Jackett's squad are staying in Murray's hometown of Dunblane for six days and training at Stirling University, three and a half miles away. Jackett has had the players in at 7.30am every weekday since a week last Wednesday for the first of three training sessions per day.

After almost two weeks of the lung-burst-ing schedule, they boarded their coach at Molineux at 9am on Monday with few signs

the hard work is letting up. They return for a training camp in Scotland for the first time since 2008, which preceded their promotion to the Premier League as Championship to the ...

But like Murray – who has worn the old gold shirt at tournaments given to him by Wolves fan John Lloyd in 2008 – Jackett is really into the business of being a winner.

He sees the best way to do that is by being as fit as possible, with a more varied routine than the players would have been used to.

Jackett said: "I think to do three sessions a day, you generally in a working environment need to get up early and get working. "It's a good habit to get into and in preseason, it's something I've always done. "It's good to lay down some foundations and then you can properly separate a running session, a football session and a gym session.

Then I can look at the content of each the property session.

"Then I can look at the content of each section. For example, the middle one is a warm-up with football – whatever drills I think are needed, whether it be finishing, defending, passing and heading, etc.

"As for the running, it starts long, with

trainers on a hard surface to start with to toughen the legs, then we move on to shorter stuff more relevant to football with

In Mick McCarthy's time, Wolves players

In Mick McCarthy's time, Wolves players were given the choice of taking up weekly pilates sessions offered to them.

Only a few did so, now similar work is a staple under Jackett, who said: "The gymbased sessions can be anything from weight training and physical conditioning to core work to mobility to yoga." The early starts aren't just to get players into a routine. Jackett believes the rest between each session is as important as the session itself.

# Graydon back at Banks's

LEGENDARY Walsall manager Ray Graydon will return to the Banks's Stadium on July 31 as guest of honour at the Saddlers' 125th anniversary match against Villa.

The 65-year-old, who twice led Walsall to promotion to England's second tier, has been invited by the Walsall Football Supporters Trust to attend the preseason friendly.

Former winger Graydon played for Villa between 1971 and 1977 and scored 67 goals in 193 games, scoring the winner in the 1975 League Cup Final.

A Trust statement said:

"The trust beauting the will define the support of the statement said:
"The trust beauting the villade."

the winner in the 1975
League Cup Final.

A Trust statement said:
"The trust board are thrilled to announce that 'Sir' Ray Graydon and his wife will be appearing at the Banks's Stadium on Wednesday July 31 as guests. The match will be a great milestone for the club and we appreciate him taking the time out to visit us for what aims to be great night."

• Walsall kicked off their pre-season tour in Trinidad with a 3-1 success against Stokey Vale at the weekend.

Ben George opened the

Stokey Vale at the weekend.

Ben George opened the
scoring before Dominic
Munchen levelled.

Then, second-half strikes
from trialist Gem Gordon
and Kieron Morris secured
victory for Saddlers.

#### **Another home** game on screen

WOLVES' second home game against Crawley Town has been selected for live coverage by Sky Sports.

The first ever competitive meeting between the clubs has been brought forward to Friday, August 23, with a 7.45pm kick off.

The Capital One Cup tie away to Morecambe is to be shown on Tuesday, August 6 (7.45pm).

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# STRIKER'S CHANCE

**CO SHINE ON TOU** 

KEEPER Richard O'Donnell and striker Trov Hewitt are among the players on trial at

Former Chesterfield stopper O'Donnell and hitman Hewitt, who was released by QPR at the end of last season, have both been taken by the Saddlers on their pre-season tour of the Caribbean.

Smith is eager to bolster his forward line following the loss of Febian Brandy, Will Grigg and Jamie Paterson in

loss of Febian Brandy, Will C
the past fortnight and 23year-old Hewitt, who made
appearances on loan for
both Bury and Colchester
United last season, has been
given his chance to shine.
The Saddlers are also in
desperate need of a goalkeeper having used no
fewer than four loan signing
last term.
Youngster Liam Roberts

Youngster Liam Roberts is the only senior keeper currently on the books.

currently on the books.

O'Donnell began his career at Sheffield Wednesday but made just 15 senior appearances for the Owls before switching to Chesterfield last summer.

#### Featured

The 24-year-old played 14 times for the Spireites in League Two last season, and also spent time on loan at Conference outfit Stock-

at Conference outfit Stock-port County.

The duo have featured as Dean Smith's men began the tour with a 3-1 win over Tobago's Stokeley Vale.

That was followed by a dramatic 3-2 victory against Trinidad and Tobago Pro Gordon netted twice.

Former Alvechurch striker Omari Sterling-James, who impressed for the Saddlers reserves last season, has also featured in both games both games.

Ben George and Kieron

#### **Saddlers**

Morris were on target in Friday's win over Stokeley Vale, while Gordon also hit the net.
Gordon, who plays for Tobagan club Phoenix 1976, was one of five locally-based players who were given their chance to shine in the Saddlers' shirt. He continued to impress

shine in the Saddlers' shirt.

He continued to impress after being handed another opportunity in the second half of the clash against the Pro League XI, sparking a stunning comeback with his brace as Smith's side came from two goals down in the last 20 minutes to win.

Goals from Jomal Williams and Neil Benjamin

last 20 minutes to win.
Goals from Jomal
Williams and Neil Benjamin
Jr had earlier put the hosts
2-0 up.
Midfielder Adam Cham-

bers believes the pre-season tour, unprecedented in Walsall history, will be of huge benefit to the season ahead.

"It's been a great tour so far," he said. "The boys are getting used to the humidity now,

and we've been training at a high intensity."

The Saddlers were due to finish the tour with a game against hosts Central FC on Tuesday and the side was due back in the UK on July 10.

# Caribbean test no holiday, insists Mantom



Dean Smith coaches young footballers from Trinidad

MIDFIELDER Sam Mantom insists Walsall's Caribbean tour has been far from a holiday camp and will leave them in perfect shape for the new

them in perfect shape for the new season.

The Saddlers have been in Trinidad and Tobago since last Wednesday as part of their preparations for the League One campaign.

It's been something of an unusual journey for a club who typically spend pre-season touring local non-league venues but Mantom has revealed the trip to the tropics has been no laughing matter.

In addition to facing three games against local opposition, Dean Smith's side have trained twice a day in searing heat and held several coaching sessions for island youngsters. Manager Smith even made an appearance on Tobago's daily break-

fast television show Rise and Shine, while Saddlers representatives have also featured on local radio.

Mantom believes the tour has been creallent representing for the shell

excellent preparation for the chal-lenges which lie ahead in the coming

"It's been nothing like a holiday,"

#### **Joking**

"There were a few raised eyebrows when we were first told we would be coming over here – everybody thought the gaffer was joking.
"But I think the experience has been really good and will set us up well for what is going to be a really tough season in League One.
"The first game on Friday was played at 4.30pm in the afternoon and it was very hot, so that was a real test.

Dean Smith with Brent Sancho, founder of Central FC

The trip has been something I never thought I would experience.

On Monday Smith and a travelling party which included former Dundee defender Brent Sancho, founder of Central FC who are hosting the Sadders on the trip, met the Mayor of San Fernando Dr Navi Muradali.

On Tuesday, they were facing

San Fernando Dr Navi Muradali.
On Tuesday they were facing
Central FC at Mucurapco's Haseley
Crawford Stadium in the final game
of the tour before flying home yesterday (Wednesday).
Smith's side were looking to finish
with a 100 per cent record after last
Friday's 3-1 win over Tobagan outfit
Stokeley Vale and a 3-2 triumph
against a Pro League XI on Sunday.
"This has been a great experience
for a lot of the players," said Smith. "I
think it's something which will bode
well for a lot of them."



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